

HISTORY  
OF THE  
TOWN OF ASHLAND



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# HISTORY <sup>2</sup>

of the

## TOWN OF ASHLAND

Mass.

Prepared by  
The Historical Records Survey  
Division of Community Service Programs  
Work Projects Administration

Inventory of city and town archives  

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of Mass.

Sponsored by  
Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Co-sponsored by  
the Town of Ashland

no. 10, v. 4, pt. 1



#### THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY PROGRAM

Sargent B. Child, National Director.

Carl J. Wennerblad, State Supervisor of Research and Records Programs.

Mary Elizabeth Sanger, State Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey.

#### DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner.

Harold G. Dunney, State Director.

George F. Burrows, Administrative Assistant.

#### WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner.

Denis W. Delaney, State Administrator.

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## PREFACE

This *History of the Town of Ashland* is Part I of the inventory of the archives of Ashland and is published separately at the request of the town; Part II, which will include the essay on governmental organization and records system, the sketches of town offices, and inventory of records, is ready for publication and will be issued at an early date. Together these two volumes will form a unit in the series bearing the title *Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts*, prepared by the Historical Records Survey in Massachusetts. The inventory of the town archives of Ashland is the fourth in the series of such inventories covering the towns and cities of Middlesex County. It is anticipated that eventually the records of every governmental unit in the State will be listed. Copies of this volume and of every publication of the Massachusetts Historical Records Survey are distributed to prominent libraries of the nation and to the larger and more centrally located libraries of Massachusetts.

"To bring together the records of the past and to house them in the buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they gain in judgment for the creation of the future," President Roosevelt has said. The existence of the Historical Records Survey indicates a belief on the part of the nation and of the state in these three things, for the purpose of this project is to survey, preserve and render accessible historical source materials of all kinds: Public records, private manuscripts, church records, and early American portraits.

In addition to its regular work of preparing and publishing inventories, guides, calendars, check lists, and indexes, the Survey has a new and important task in the present period of crisis, endorsed by the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources: To survey housing and storage facilities in restricted areas for emergency deposit of archives, manuscripts, records, and museum treasures, and to assist curators and custodians in preparing priority lists of such materials.

Two years ago when the research for this publication was begun, the town of Ashland appointed a town-history committee of three, Henry E. Warren, Mabel A. Lowe, and Perry O. Holden, to coöperate with the Historical Records Survey. The Survey is indebted to the members of this committee, as well as to the town officials, and to the other residents of Ashland for their coöperation, and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Honorable Frederic W. Cook, without whose sponsorship this project would not be possible. Grateful acknowledgment is also extended to Truell D. Emerson, who performed the research for this volume, to Miss Mary Cutler and Samuel Levenson, who edited the volume for publication, and to Paul A. Baker, under whose supervision this work was carried on.

MARY ELIZABETH SANGER,  
*State Supervisor Historical Records Survey.*

## FOREWORD

*The Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts* is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. Up to the present time, more than 1800 publications have been issued by the Survey throughout the country. The history and archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by town officials, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalogue for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records — they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and city inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey, even in a single town, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their coöperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey was directed by Luther H. Evans from its inception in January 1936, to March 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child, formerly National Field Supervisor. It operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Community service Programs, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

HOWARD O. HUNTER,  
*Commissioner Work Projects Administration.*

# HISTORY OF ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland, located on the Sudbury River midway between Boston and Worcester, was incorporated less than a hundred years ago from sections of Framingham, Hopkinton and Holliston. At that time it was known as Unionville, because it was at the center of all three towns. However, if the age of a town is measured by the date of its first settlement and first grants, Ashland is as ancient as most of the towns in the Commonwealth. A survey of Ashland's history from this viewpoint will, therefore, include a description of the founding and settling of the praying Indian reservation known as Magunko, the plantations of Framingham and Sherborne, and many private grants.

So far as is known, the first white men to visit the territory which Ashland now embraces were John Oldham, Samuel Hall, and two others, who in 1633 traveled from Watertown to the Connecticut River in search of a suitable place for settlement. These pioneers followed the old Indian trail, which later became known as the Connecticut Path, or the Bay Path, and which formed the principal line of communication between Massachusetts Bay and the lower Connecticut valley.<sup>1</sup> For many years thereafter, although the section became well known to the planters eastward, no permanent settlement was established within the boundaries of present-day Ashland. This was due, in part, to the ever-present Indian menace, and also to the fact that here were to be found no extensive lowlands like the Sudbury marshes, where the self-cured wild marsh hay grew.

This remote wilderness, too far from the established centers of colonization to attract many white men, was however an ideal situation for one of John Eliot's towns of praying Indians, and it is with the settlement of Magunko Hill that the history of Ashland properly begins.

The Indian town of Magunko was an artificial development. Prior to 1659/60, there was no Indian village at this place, but in that year Eliot gathered natives from various quarters and organized them into

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1. See Appendix A for a more detailed description of the Connecticut Path.

a civil community, after the model of the Indian plantation at Natick.<sup>2</sup> Each family had its own wigwams, granaries and cattle, and caught and cured its own fish.

As time went on, the little settlement took on more and more the appearance of the ordinary frontier villages of the white pioneers. Wigwams were replaced by houses, paths were widened and made into streets and roadways and a sort of local government began to function, not greatly different from that maintained by the regularly constituted plantations of the English settlers. For some years the place flourished, until at last it reached a point where some form of recognition by the General Court was both desirable and necessary.

On October 14, 1669, 10 years after the initial settlement, Eliot sent a petition to the General Court "on behalf of the poor Indians of Magwonkcommok." It stated:

That whereas a company of new praying Indians are set down in the western corner of Natick bounds called Magwonkcommok, who have called one to rule, and another to teach them, of whom the latter is of the church, the former ready to be joined; and there is not fit land for planting, toward Natick, but westerly there is, though very rocky — these are humbly to request that fit accommodations may be allowed them westward.<sup>3</sup>

To this petition the General Court made favorable reply, and gave the Indians permission to lay out an additional tract of land, not to exceed 1000 acres, on the westerly side of Magunko Hill and in the adjacent Indian Brook Valley. Here, on the top of the hill, to the west of their fort, the Indians cleared their planting field. Their barns were set on the northerly slope of the hill. At the easterly slope of the hill lay the Indian burial ground,<sup>4</sup> of which vestiges still remain.<sup>5</sup>

In 1674 Major Samuel Gookin, superintendent of Indian affairs, wrote regarding the Magunko settlement:

The number of inhabitants is about eleven families and fifty-five souls. There are men and women, eight members of the church at Natick, and about fifteen baptized persons. The quantity of land belonging to it is about 3000 acres. The Indians plant upon a great hill which is very fertile. These people worship God, and keep the Sabbath, and observe civil order—as do the other towns. Their ruler's name is Pomhaman, a sober and active man, and pious. Their teacher is named Job, a person well ac-

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2. *Col. Rec.*, IV, Part 1, pp. 408-410, 428; Josiah H. Temple, *History of Framingham*, p. 61.

3. Temple, *op. cit.*, p. 62.

4. L. F. Griffin, "Ashland," in *History of New England*, Rev. R. H. Howard and Henry Crocker, eds., p. 206.

5. *Ibid.*



cepted for piety and ability among them. This town was the last settling of the old Towns. They have plenty of corn, and keep some cattle, horses and swine, for which the place is well accommodated.<sup>6</sup>

There seems to be some doubt whether an Indian church was actually constructed on Magunko Hill; authorities differ, and the truth of the matter may never be known. In any event, this settlement, the seventh of the "praying towns" to be established by Mr. Eliot, attracted Indians from other sections than Natick, whence had come its first inhabitants, and it was for a time considered a model of its kind.<sup>7</sup>

The subsequent history of the Magunko settlement was tragic. During King Philip's War, six members of the community participated in the massacre of the family of Thomas Eames in Framingham. This outrage directed against their former benefactors took place on February 1, 1676/7.<sup>8</sup> Three of the Indians were brought to trial, convicted and executed.<sup>9</sup> The remaining members of the settlement were scattered, but retained title to the land. This property was sold piece by piece, the last to pass into the hands of the white men being deeded to the trustees of the Charity of Edward Hopkins, 40 years later.<sup>10</sup>

## THE RUSSELL GRANT — DANFORTH FARMS

The first grant to be made to a white man within the present bounds of Ashland was approved by the General Court on May 15, 1657. This was an enactment in favor of Richard Russell, made in return for his services as colonial treasurer. It read:

Mr. Richard Russell having binn very serviceable to the countrje for his publicque employment of Treasurer for many yeares, for which he hath no annuall stipend, this Court doth graunt him five hundred acres of land, in any place not formerly graunted, upon Nipnop River, at his choice.<sup>11</sup>

By the provisions of this act, which specified only that one side of the grant should be bounded by the Nipnop River, now known as the Sudbury River, Treasurer Russell could select his grant from an enormous tract of territory, as the lands which had been confirmed to grantees along this river were not extensive at the time. Russell, or

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6. *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, First Series, I, 188.

7. Rev. Edmund Dowse, *Centennial Address*, p. 1; Josiah H. Temple, *op. cit.*, p. 61; George T. Higley, "Ashland," in the *History of Middlesex County*, Duane Hamilton Hurd, ed., III, 535.

8. *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, First Series, I, 198.

9. *Massachusetts Archives*, XXX, 217, 228, 484.

10. *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, First Series, I, 198.

11. *Col. Rec.*, IV, Part 1, p. 304.

some agent acting for him, selected the region near Washakum Pond, extending substantially as far to the south as the present Holliston town line. The grant was laid out and confirmed on May 6, 1659, and is thus described:

Laid out unto Mr. Richard Russell, Treasurer, five hundred acres of land, lying in the wilderness, upon both sides of the path that leadeth from Sudbury toward Nipnop, & is bounded on the northeast with Washakum Pond, and a swampe adjouyning thereto, and on the west by a marked tree and the west side of an ashen swampe, and on the south with the upland adjouyning to the southerly or southwest point of that meadow which lyeth on the westerly side of the aforesaid meadow, and on the north extending on the north side of the aforesaid path, and is surrounded with the wilderness.<sup>12</sup>

The "path" mentioned was the Connecticut Path. The "swampe" and "meadow," later known as the "Great Meadow," lay southwest of Washakum Pond. From this place the inhabitants of western Sherborn and the southern part of Framingham for many years procured marsh hay. The upland to the south became known as "Long Hill," where lies an almost forgotten cemetery of the Eames and Cuzzens families. Washakum Pond, still known by the same name, is on the southwesterly border of the village of South Framingham.

Thus, the tract covered that section of present Ashland which lies south of the river and to the east of Cold Spring Brook. While its extent and approximate location are mentioned in the act which confirmed the grant, as made to Russell, the precise bounds have been the subject of much speculation. Russell never settled on this freehold. After his death in 1676, the entire tract was purchased by Governor Thomas Danforth, who also secured from the Indians a quitclaim deed, on October 1, 1684, which extinguished whatever right to land tenure they may have held within the granted territory. Danforth, in 1693, disposed of his interest in these lands to Thomas White and Joseph Buckminster, in whose favor he executed 999-year leases. The General Court, on February 7, 1759, extinguished these long-term leases, giving the holders free title to the land and at the same time making possible its further subdivision and resale.<sup>13</sup>

The tract then became known as Danforth Farms, and for years supplied wood and pasturage for the inhabitants of Framingham. It belonged at first to Sherborn, became part of Holliston in 1724,<sup>14</sup> and in 1846 was set off to Ashland.

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12. *Ibid.*, pp. 370-371.

13. *Province Acts and Resolves*, XVI (1757-60), 1759/60, ch. 306.

14. *Ibid.*, X (1720-25), 1724/25, ch. 235.



## THE SHERBORN LANDS

Adjacent to the Russell grant was a tract of some 4000 acres, which became the subject of a prolonged controversy between the towns of Sherborn and Framingham. On May 12, 1675, the planters of the former town, through Henry Adams, petitioned the General Court for permission to exchange this land located at the westerly end of the township "adjoining to Magunekook Indian Hill," for a like quantity of land in Natick.<sup>15</sup>

This proposal was approved by the General Court, but it was not until 1685 that a deed of exchange was executed by the Indians.<sup>16</sup> However, in 1700 ownership of this land was returned to Sherborn, because the early planter families, Pratt, Gleason, Death, Eames, Haven and Learned, had connections with the church in that town, and were taxed there.<sup>17</sup> The boundaries of this original acreage were indefinite, but within it were included all of present-day Ashland east of Cold Spring Brook and south of the Sudbury River, except the land embraced by the Russell grant.

## THE CROWNE GRANT

The grant which was made to William Crowne in 1662/3 was well defined, and its extent and location have not been subject to dispute. This land was surveyed in 1663 by Thomas Noyes,<sup>18</sup> who described the grant in these words:

Layed out in the yeare 1663, by me, underwritten, and exactly measured according to the rules of art, the five hundred acres of land granted unto the Hono. Colonell Wm. Craine, in the yeare 1663, at a place neare the cold spring, nereunto the roade wch leadeth from Sudbury unto Connecticut, on the south side of a branch of the Sudbury River, being about nine miles from the town of Sudbury, at a place called by the Indians, Maynaguncok hill.<sup>19</sup>

This grant, made in recognition of Colonel Crowne's political services, embraced all the territory now included in Ashland village, extending from Magunko Hill on the west to Cold Spring Brook on the east, and from the Sudbury River on the north southward about a mile. In 1687 Crowne's heirs sold the tract to Savil Simpson, a Boston cordwainer, for 30 pounds.<sup>20</sup>

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15. Col. Rec., V, 23, 37, 227.

16. Massachusetts Archives, XXX, 305.

17. Col. Rec., V, 227, 229, 230; Mass. Archives, XXX, 305.

18. William Barry, *History of Framingham*, p. 95.

19. Col. Rec., IV, Part 2, p. 150.

20. Barry, *op. cit.*, p. 96.

As in the case of Richard Russell, it is probable that Colonel Crowne never set foot on his wilderness freehold. Simpson, however, moved onto the tract, and built his house there. This was the first dwelling to stand on Ashland ground. In this respect it is interesting to note that, if local tradition is true, no white man ever erected within present-day Ashland a log cabin. From the very first the planters put up substantial frame houses, owing in large measure to the enterprise of this same Savil Simpson, who erected a sawmill on the river almost as soon as he set foot on the land.<sup>21</sup>

Simpson's mill, constructed in 1707, was the first to be erected within the present bounds of Ashland. His home is supposed to have stood just to the west of the present Telechron factory.<sup>22</sup> His lands located north of present Union Street descended, through his daughter, to Colonel John Jones; those to the south went to Roger Dench, who married Simpson's granddaughter, Ann Lawson. Captain Dench, who had been a Boston mariner, erected his mansion sometime prior to 1738, as the house was razed in that year.<sup>23</sup> The reason for the early demolition of the Dench mansion, which by all accounts was a fine building, well proportioned and of considerable size, is not known. The site of this early home, directly across from the old burying ground on Union Street, is now occupied by a modern dwelling.<sup>24</sup>

## THE CHARITY OF EDWARD HOPKINS

That part of Ashland which lies south of the Sudbury River and west of Cold Spring Brook, with the exception of lands included in the Crowne grant, came into civic being as the result of a bequest made in 1657 by Edward Hopkins, at various times secretary, deputy governor and governor of Connecticut. Had the course of this bequest been along more usual lines, it is quite probable that the name of the second oldest college in New England would have been Hopkins instead of Yale. In the normal course of events the bequest of Edward Hopkins should have gone to the new college then being set up in Connecticut. There, rather than in Massachusetts, were all the interests of the testator; there for many years he held public office, there he accumulated much of his fortune, and there he married and made his home. Yet, through a strange chance, it was Harvard College that received the benefits of the Hopkins benefaction. Compared to the amount which Elihu Yale left to the college which now bears his name, the Hopkins bequest was truly munificent.

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21. Information supplied by Mr. John Dearth.

22. Barry, *op. cit.*, p. 148.

23. Dench Genealogy.

24. W. F. Ellis and Elias Grout, "Ashland," in *History of Middlesex County*, Samuel Adams Drake, ed.

Edward Hopkins died in England in the year 1657, leaving large estates there and in this country. In his will he made two bequests for the encouragement of education here. One of these, to be paid at once from his estate in America, was of 200 pounds, to be administered by trustees, and from this bequest were derived the Hopkins Grammar Schools in New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut, and in Hadley, Massachusetts.<sup>25</sup>

The provisions for carrying out the second bequest, payable from the estate in England, were such that the actual administration developed along far different lines, and in a way which, it is safe to say, was not anticipated by the man who made the benefaction possible. After providing for the 200-pound bequest mentioned above, the will of Edward Hopkins continued:

My further mind and Will is That within six months after the Decease of my wife, five hundred pounds be made over into New England according to the advice of my loving friends Major Robert Thompson & Mr. Francis Willoughby and conveyed into the hands of the Trustees before mentioned in further prosecution of the aforesaid publick ends, which in the simplicity of my heart are for the upholding & promoting the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ in those parts of the earth.<sup>26</sup>

Mrs. Hopkins was the daughter of David Yale, and the aunt of Elihu Yale, whose name was given to the college in Connecticut. She was mentally unsound and it is probable that Mr. Hopkins, when he made his will, did not anticipate that she would long survive him. Mrs. Hopkins, however, lived on for 41 years, dying in 1698. By that time, all of the original trustees of the two bequests were dead, as were the two friends named in the will, Major Thompson and Francis Willoughby. That part of the proposed benefaction which was contingent upon the death of Mrs. Hopkins was entirely forgotten.

Not until 10 years after the decease of Mrs. Hopkins were any steps taken to recover under the will of her husband. In 1708 legal advice was sought in England, probably by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, as to whom the 500 pounds belonged, and what measures might best be employed to secure it. Two more years elapsed before the case came before the courts, after which a decree was entered that should the money be recovered it was to be applied to a "school or college in New England for the breeding up of scholars in the study of Divinity," and that the way to recover it was by "an Information in Chancery."<sup>27</sup>

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25. *Records of the Colony or Jurisdiction of New Haven*, pp. 356, 370 et seq.

26. *New England Historical and Genealogical Record*, July, 1884, pp. 315, 316.

27. Charles Pickering Bowditch, *An Account of the Charity of Edward Hopkins*, passim.

Under the date of February 10, 1710/11, the master of the Court of Chancery found that there were sufficient funds in the hands of Thomas Exton, then executor of the Hopkins estate, and "that there was a school or college in Cambridge called Harvard." Accordingly, in March of the same year Exton was ordered to turn over the money, together with interest at the rate of 5% from six months after the death of Mrs. Hopkins.

Possibly through information supplied by the Court of Chancery, the president and fellows of Harvard College became aware of the Hopkins legacy at about the time the "Information" was given, and on March 20, 1710/11, Henry Newman petitioned the court on behalf of the college. Almost two years later, on December 18, 1712, a second "Information" of the court stipulated that three-fourths of the money should go to the benefit of Harvard College, and be vested in the purchase of houses and lands in the names of certain listed trustees. Judge Samuel Sewall was named treasurer of the fund.<sup>28</sup>

Due to additional legal delays, it was not until 1715 that Judge Sewall got the Hopkins money, which with interest and exchange had increased to more than 1250 pounds. Meanwhile the trustees had been looking for a suitable land investment, and on June 20, 1715, they petitioned the General Court for license to purchase from the Natick Indians "a tract a waste common land known by the name of Magunkaquag."

This petition was granted, and on September 24, 1715, the Indian proprietors met and voted: "That the lands at Megunkook be sold to the trustees of Mr. Hopkins' legacy." On October 11, 1715, this transfer was recorded in the *Harvard Donations Book*:

Captain Sewall, President Leverett and Mr. Daniel Oliver, the trustees having obtained the consent of the General Court, went to Natick and finished the purchase of Maguncoog and Donations were distributed to the Indians to their great satisfaction.<sup>29</sup>

The tract thus purchased, together with several thousand acres donated by the province, was incorporated on December 13, 1715, into a township by the name of Hopkinton, and on March 16, 1846, the north-

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28. Several items are recorded pertaining to the purchase by Judge Sewall in his *Diary*:

Sept. 28, 1715. Went to the Cambridge to meet the Natick Committee, Waban and others . . . Accomplish the Bargain for Magunkaquog Land and paid fourteen pounds in part. *Laus Deo*.

Oct. 11. Went with Mr. Daniel Oliver to Natick; from the Falls in company with the President & Thos. Oliver, Esqr. and Mr. John Cotton. At Natick the Indians of the Committee executed the Parchment Deed for the Land at Magunkaquog and paid the Proprietors Three pounds apiece.

(*Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, Series V, Vol. VII, p. 62.)

29. See also President Leverett's *Memoirs*, p. 104; *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, Series V, Vol. VI, p. 416; Charles Pickering Bowditch, *op. cit.* From this trust now comes annually the famous Deturs, books presented to honor students of Harvard.



ern portion of this land was set off to become a part of the new town of Ashland.<sup>30</sup> It comprised about a third of the present town.

Among the first who proposed to take advantage of the land thus made available for settlement were Thomas Howe, and Thomas and Isaac Gleason. These gentlemen took up leaseholds on May 8, 1719, but after a reconsideration of the terms set up by the trustees of the Charity returned them, and did not occupy the lands designated. The trustees on their part modified the terms of their leases, and many of the planters from Framingham took advantage of the liberal conditions, and took up leaseholds in the new territory. Beginning in 1723 the trustees adopted a standard form of contract, whereby the leases were executed to extend for a period of 99 years, with rents fixed at three pence per acre, payable annually. The trustees assumed the responsibility for all taxes.

It soon became apparent to the college trustees that the rentals specified had been placed at too low a level, and that the income from the Hopkinton leases was no greater than the tax assessment, so that they were receiving nothing. In 1726 they set forth an indignant protest:

Tho ye College has an interest in ye Rents of Hopkinton, yet we hitherto never received one farthing of it, altho it cost ye College Sixty Pounds Sterling or more, to recover and obtain yt Donation.<sup>31</sup>

It took some time to remedy this situation, for the leases had been legally executed, and the planters were by no means anxious to see the rights which had been given to them taken away. However, the standing of the college was such that its protest could not be ignored, and after some years the early leases were ordered extinguished. In 1742 the trustees of the Charity prepared new contracts, with a specified rental of one penny per acre per annum, but with the planters, instead of the Charity, paying the taxes. This plan continued in operation for nearly 100 years. In 1832 the lease system was abolished, and the persons who were holding the lands which the Charity of Edward Hopkins had embraced were given free title to them.<sup>32</sup>

Adjacent to the Simpson farm, and to the south, was a tract of 100 acres, which the trustees of the Charity leased to Robert Huston, who in turn assigned his right to Thomas Valentine, in 1753. This tract included the crossroads where Olive, Frankland and Union Streets now meet. The old Valentine house stands to the north of this land on other property which originally belonged to Thomas Valentine.<sup>33</sup>

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30. Secretary of the Commonwealth, *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts*.

31. "Harvard College Book IV," in Collections of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, XVI, 531.

32. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

33. Hopkinton and Upton Records, II, 147.

Southeast of the Valentine land, in the valley of Cold Spring Brook, was a tract of 50 acres, also leased by the trustees to Robert Huston. This leasehold was assigned by Huston to Ebenezer Preston, who disposed of his interest to Jacob Parker of Holliston. Parker took over the land in 1745 and assigned it five years later to Sir Henry Frankland.<sup>34</sup> Adjoining this land on the east were the Nathaniel Eames and Haven properties.

South of the Preston-Frankland land, lying on both sides of present Olive Street, were 55 acres leased to David Woodell, and assigned by him to Samuel Woodell, who in 1753 sold the lease to Richard Smith. This land extended to the corner of Spring Street.<sup>35</sup>

South of this land, at the northwest corner of Clinton and Olive Streets, was a tract of 51 acres which had been leased to Samuel Streeter, transferred to John Nutt, and in 1752 sold to James Nutt.<sup>36</sup> This Samuel Streeter at one time owned all of the land which today lies to the north of Clinton Street, between Olive and Union Streets.

East of the Preston, Woodell and Streeter lands, in the valley of Cold Spring Brook, were about 400 acres of land originally leased to Nathaniel Haven and his sons, who had removed from property previously held on the old Russell and Danforth Farm grant. The first of these pieces was a plot of 34 acres on the west side of the brook, the land is now covered by the waters of the reservoir. This property passed out of the hands of the Haven family to Benjamin Bernard of Sudbury, but was later taken up by Jonathan Haven, son of Nathaniel Haven, Jr.<sup>37</sup>

Also assigned to Benjamin Barnard was the tract which lay directly to the south of this first leasehold, comprised of 48 acres. Nathaniel Haven, Jr., bought this lease from Barnard and turned it over to his son, Abraham Haven, who in 1769 assigned it to Abel Partridge. On this land Spring Street crosses Cold Spring Brook.<sup>38</sup>

The third parcel of this Haven leasehold was a tract of 82 acres leased by Nathaniel Haven, Sr., and bordering Spring Street on the south to a point near Olive Street. On this land was a mill, erected on Cold Spring Brook.<sup>39</sup>

It is interesting to note, in connection with these early leases executed by the trustees of the Charity of Edward Hopkins, that the records were housed for many years in a registry set up for the purpose in the town of Hopkinton, and not at the county seat. The irregularity of this procedure accounts for the fact that today the early records of Hopkinton land tenures, plans, maps and surveys are not, as they should be, in any one place, or for that matter, ordinarily available to the anti-

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34. *Ibid.*, p. 56.

35. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

36. *Ibid.*, p. 27.

37. *Ibid.*, p. 138.

38. *Ibid.*, p. 140.

39. *Ibid.*, p. 158.

quarian and historian. These leases were, in the beginning, considered as private documents rather than public records, and as such their custody was in the hands of the trustees rather than the colony. Many of the original documents of the Charity are now in the Registry of Deeds in East Cambridge, but other pertinent papers have passed into the hands of private individuals and corporations. This is also true with regard to some of the very early surveys and maps which were made for the township.

## OTHER HOPKINTON LEASES

To the east of the Haven leaseholds above recorded, and across Cold Spring Brook, was more land which was taken up by members of the Haven family. This was leased by the Charity to Jedediah Haven, and included land now occupied by the Bob White summer camp for boys.<sup>40</sup>

South of this land occupied by Jedediah Haven and that which was held by Nathaniel Haven, Sr., was a long strip extending along the northerly side of present Clinton Street, from East to Olive Streets. This comprised 75 acres, and was leased to Deacon Moses Haven. There was a mill on this land, and another a short distance away, near the Spring Street bridge, which was built over the brook by Jedediah Haven and his son Moriah.

Practically all of the Magunko Hill section, with land extending nearly to the Sudbury River on the north, and across present Union Street, was leased in 1742 by the trustees of the Charity to Captain James Gooch. This tract was divided into two large sections, containing 52 and 214 acres respectively, and it appears probable that there may have been another small lot, of four acres, also included in the leasehold, for the contract Gooch made specifies a total of 270 acres, which was four more than was included in the two tracts previously divided.<sup>41</sup>

All of this extensive holding was sold by Captain Gooch on November 25, 1749, to Sir Henry Frankland. The amount of the consideration appears on the record as 7000 pounds, "old tenor," the equivalent of 700 pounds sterling. On that part of the land which lay along present Union Street, just southwest of the present Valentine house, Captain Gooch erected his mansion. Still standing today are the two square granite posts which marked the entrance to the old driveway<sup>42</sup> and which, according to local tradition, had been imported for the purpose by the captain from the old country.

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40. Hopkinton and Upton Records, II, 69.

41. *Ibid.*

42. Frank Austin Gooch, *The History of John Gooch in New England*, p. 101.

Of this house the Gooch Genealogy has the following account:

On September 2, 1745, a dwelling house in Hopkinton, the property of Capt. Gooch, was burned in the evening of the day, with part of the furnishings, but what enhanced the calamity is that two negro children were burned to death.<sup>43</sup> Tradition has it that the catastrophe took place during an absence of the family in Boston, and that when Mrs. Gooch heard of it her beautiful dark hair turned gray in a night and she would never return to Hopkinton. Tradition must, however, have been somewhat at fault, for about three years later, on July 23, 1746, James Gooch discharged at Hopkinton a mortgage upon property in Boston; in 1748 he was chosen town clerk, and on November 9, 1749, James Gooch and wife Hester, gave a quit claim to property on Green Lane in Boston. (It was) after the fire that James Gooch sold land to Sir Henry Frankland who proceeded to lease from Rev. Roger Price his "mansion house" about a stone's throw from the Frankland place. "Gooche's well" still marked in 1887 the spot where Capt. James Gooch's house was burned in 1743.<sup>44</sup>

Prior to the time when Gooch took up his leasehold the 52-acre tract which was included in this land had been a part of the original Woodell holding; the larger division, which comprised 214 acres, had been assigned to Samuel Jones, of Concord.<sup>45</sup>

West of the Frankland purchase was 77 acres originally held by William Henry, and by him assigned to Jeremiah Hobbs. It included the land east of the junction of Cross and Frankland Streets. Sir Henry eventually added this tract to his extensive holdings.<sup>46</sup>

To the west of this land, and now for the most part lying within the bounds of Hopkinton, was a 50-acre tract assigned to Abijah Stone, the early innkeeper. After his death in 1758 his widow, Ann Stone, petitioned the general court for license to carry on the establishment which had been set up by her husband. So far as can be ascertained, this ancient inn was located within the limits of present-day Ashland, on the old Connecticut Path which crossed the Stone leasehold.<sup>47</sup>

On the west and north sides of present High Street there were four pieces of property. John Crooks had 62 acres at the place now called Magunko Orchards, deriving his leasehold from Caleb Bridges, the original holder.<sup>48</sup> In 1790 John Crooks assigned to his son Abraham

62 acres with buildings — being his homestead farm, bounded easterly by Abraham Tilton, northerly by land

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43. *Massachusetts Historical Collections*, Series II, p. 83.

44. Gooch, *op. cit.*, p. 101, 102.

45. Hopkinton and Upton Records, II, 134.

46. *Ibid.*, I, 21.

47. *Ibid.*, II, 57.

48. *Ibid.*, p. 62.



formerly owned by Isaac Bixby, westerly by Nathaniel Pike and southerly by Henry Cromwell and highway.<sup>49</sup>

North of the Crooks land was a tract of 47 acres which had been leased by John Rugg in 1730;<sup>50</sup> it was assigned by him to Jonathan Ingersol of Sudbury in 1744, and, a few months later, by Ingersol to Jeremiah Goodhue of Westboro. In 1751 Goodhue, then mentioned as being "of Hopkinton," assigned the land to the Abraham Tilton mentioned in the Crooks lease of 1790.

Next to this land, extending over the northerly slope of Magunko Hill and to the Sudbury River, was 100 acres which had been leased originally to Nathaniel Pike. Pike divided his lands into two parts, north and south, each containing about 50 acres. The southern half he assigned in 1745 to Jeremiah Burnham, "of Ipswitch, cordwainer." In 1748 Burnham transferred his lease to Josiah Burnham.<sup>51</sup> The northerly half of this land, which lay along the river, was retained by Nathaniel Pike. Here, at a later date, was erected Bigelow's mill, which stood at the western line of the property.<sup>52</sup>

To the west of these Crook, Rugg, Pike and Burnham leaseholds, along Indian Brook and the present Howe Street, were five pieces of land. On the west side of Indian Brook, where it enters the Sudbury River, was a lot of 54 acres assigned to William Wesson. This included the site of the present Howe Street bridge over the river, the old house known as the Ellis place, and what was once known as the Pig Lane Schoolhouse.<sup>53</sup> Howe Street was once known as Pig Lane.

On the east side of Indian Brook, where it joins the Sudbury River, was another 54-acre parcel of land which was leased by Stephen Jennings. This land controlled the water rights on Indian Brook and the mill built here much later was erected by John, David, Dexter and Josiah Bigelow, four grandsons of the original lease-holder. From this beginning probably may be traced the origin of the Bigelow mills. Myra Ann Bigelow, daughter of John Bigelow, one of the four proprietors, married Rev. Elias Nason, who later owned the old Frankland Manor house.<sup>54</sup>

Following Indian Brook, there was a long piece of 100 acres which adjoined the John Crooks place on the east, and included Cross Street. This was assigned to Thomas Bixby.<sup>55</sup> The next lot of 100 acres along the brook, the southern part of which is now included in the Hopkinton reservoir, was leased to Peter Howe. Howe was the first school teacher and an outstanding member of the frontier community, serving the town

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49. *Ibid.*, X, 32.

50. *Ibid.*, II, 5.

51. *Ibid.*, p. 48.

52. *Ibid.*, p. 89.

53. *Ibid.*, p. 36.

54. *Ibid.*, p. 44.

55. *Ibid.*, p. 118.

of Hopkinton as town clerk and as a selectman for many years. His uncle, John Howe, did much to develop the water power at Shephard's Mills, but later removed to Hopkinton Center. David Howe, another uncle, was the builder and proprietor of the famous Red Horse Tavern at Sudbury, better known as the Wayside Inn. Longfellow described him as:

Grave in his aspect and attire;  
A man of ancient pedigree,  
A Justice of the Peace was he,  
Known in all Sudbury as "The Squire."

Associated with the Pig Lane district is the memory of the Young family of Mormons. Ashland barely escaped the honor of being the birthplace of Brigham Young. For on March 7, 1763, John Young, Brigham's father, was born here, in the part which was then Hopkinton. Young was a member of the Hopkinton Methodist Church, but does not appear to have taken any active part in the civic affairs of the community. In 1785 he married Nabby Howe, daughter of Phineas Howe and Susannah Goddard, also of Hopkinton. There were eleven children, five sons and six daughters, of whom the first eight, with the exception of one daughter, were born in Hopkinton. The family lived in the Howe house, fronting on Pig Lane. In January, 1801, Young moved his family to Whitingham, Vermont, where Brigham Young was born on July 1 of the same year. Subsequently, after removal to Sherburn, New York, the entire family embraced the new Mormon faith. John Young, native son of Hopkinton and Ashland, also rose high in the church and, had he lived, might well have become as famous as his son. At the time of his death, in 1839, he was the first patriarch of the church, and was one of its leaders during the time the Mormons were in Illinois.<sup>56</sup>

Hopkinton took no great pride in the rise to fame of Brigham Young, but it kept in touch with events in Utah, for other local residents had been attracted to the faith owing to their acquaintance with the Young family, and some had made the long overland journey to Salt Lake City.<sup>57</sup> A reference to these former Hopkinton residents appears in the minutes of the Hopkinton Ladies Missionary Society, a local organization which flourished from 1839 through 1849. In the minutes of the meeting for February 5, 1846, is the following entry:

An interesting letter was read giving a sad account of the state of society among the Mormons & of the melancholy death of some individual by their cruel hands. A prayer was offered by Mr. J. Freeland for our deluded friends among them. . . .

Southwest of the Howe land was 113 acres which had been leased by Mark Whitney. This included the area around the junction of Howe

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56. C. V. Waite, *The Mormon Prophet and His Harem*, pp. 1-3.

57. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

and Wilson Streets.<sup>58</sup> The old Whitney Mills at Cordaville were built by members of this family.

Along the south bank of the Sudbury River were several tracts owned by Rev. Roger Price. In 1736 Price purchased 74 acres from James MacClintock, which later became, in part, Ashland territory. After Roger Price died, his daughter, Elizabeth, lived in the neighborhood and for a time farmed some of the land.<sup>59</sup>

### SAVIL SIMPSON AND HIS LAND

Savil Simpson, the first settler, was a prominent personage in Boston, and did not relinquish the ties with his former place of residence after he had removed to the wilderness along the banks of the Sudbury River.

By trade Savil Simpson was a cordwainer, a maker of leather goods and military trappings. His home was probably on Milk Street, Boston. He evidently was an active citizen, as early records state that he was appointed a sealer of leather, clerk of the market, tithingman, surveyor of highways, and constable. He took the oath of allegiance in Boston on November 18, 1678. The oath was administered by Hon. John Leverett, governor.

Judge Sewall, to whom we owe much for giving us such a vivid picture of the early history of Boston, wrote in his famous Diary, under the date of Tuesday, September 16, 1690: "About 11 at night fire breaks out at the home of Jno. Alton, worsted comber, and a great part of Savil Simpsons. The wind being Sou-West, the South Meeting House was preserved with great difficulty being in a flame in divers places of it." And under the date of Sabbath, January 26, 1692-3, he writes: "A very sunshining hot thawing day. Note. Just as we were coming out of the meeting house at Noon, Savil Simpsons chimney fell in fire and blaz'd out much, which made many people stand gazing at it a pretty while, being so near the meeting house." This would prove that the Simpson house was near the Old South Church.

Savil Simpson was closely allied to the church life of the town, for we find his name often mentioned in the Annals of King's Chapel. "Among names of Gentlemen of the Church Mr. Savil Simpson communicant and church warden." His pew was Number 82. He was a warden for several years, also a vestryman, and was instrumental in procuring the communion service. But evidently he had interests outside of Boston, for the records state that on July 4, 1687, he purchased the William Crowne Grant of five hundred "achers" for £30, and in 1693 a deed was given by the Indians for additional land. Later, with Robert Taft, he purchase land in Mendon.

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58. Hopkinton and Upton Records, II, p. 112.

59. Price, Osgood, Valentine Papers, in Massachusetts Historical Society.

Savil Simpson was rated in Framingham in 1710, so probably removed from Boston about that time. His homestead was near the present home of Mrs. John Holbrook. The will of Mr. Simpson was proved March, 1725. It is not known whether he is buried in the old Revolutionary Burying Ground on Union Street, Ashland, or in the one that lies next to King's Chapel, in Boston.<sup>60</sup>

A stone memorial in the old Union Street enclosure in Ashland definitely states that Savil Simpson was buried there, but authority for this conclusion is difficult to verify. The land was a part of the Jones property, and it is improbable that any burial records were ever kept. Local tradition accepts the statement on the memorial.

On June 11, 1711, some Framingham settlers, intent upon securing title to the land south and west of the Savil Simpson freehold, petitioned the governor for permission to purchase 4000 acres from the Natick Indians, the nominal owners.<sup>61</sup> This would have extended the Framingham lands by many acres, but the petition was not granted by Governor Dudley, and the opening of the Magunko lands had to await the negotiations of the Hopkins' Charity and the setting up of the township of Hopkinton. The area affected was not, of course, any part of the Savil Simpson freehold, which had previously been known as the Crowne grant. But the closing of the Magunko land to settlement made the Simpson land farther down the river the most desirable place for settlement available in the vicinity.

Simpson had excellent connections in Boston, and was able to advance an argument which never failed to appeal to the pioneer Englishman,—that of more and better land without the drawback of any appreciable amount of taxation. As a consequence of this early real estate "development," Simpson was able to sell a considerable part of his wilderness property to his well-to-do friends.

First to follow Savil Simpson to this region was his son-in-law, John Jones, later Colonel, who with his brother-in-law, Anthony Blount, on October 26, 1716, purchased 326 acres of the Simpson farm.<sup>62</sup> John Jones built his homestead near the site of the present high school building, on what is now Central Street. It is referred to in the old records as a "mansion."

In 1748 Jones built a second house, on a lot of land opposite the Ashland town hall, for the use of his son, who also bore the name of John Jones, and who, like his father, became a colonel. This dwelling was adjacent to the waterpower which the family developed at this place.

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60. The sketch of Savil Simpson here presented was prepared for this history by Mrs. Minnie Jones Stearns of Framingham, Mass.

61. Massachusetts Archives, XXXI, 84.

62. Middlesex County Land Records, XVIII, p. 320.



Colonel Jones, Sr., was three times married; first to Elizabeth Simpson, daughter of Savil Simpson, whom he married on May 12, 1713, some years before he settled in Ashland territory. His second wife was Hannah Alden; his third, Mary Baldwin. He was a man of considerable importance, and held a commission as a justice of the peace from George II. In 1743 he was one of a committee set up by the Easterly Precinct to determine where the meeting house should stand, and later selected the site for the meeting house in Mendon. He was active in the affairs of the church in Hopkinton, and the old church records show that when the meeting house there was built, his pew was 7½ feet long and 5 feet wide, in itself a reliable index to the position he held in the community. For many years he served the town of Hopkinton as a surveyor, and was often employed by other towns in the same capacity. His sextant is now in the possession of the Ashland Historical Society.

In 1735 he was chosen to represent the town of Hopkinton in the General Court, and was the only person elected to fill that office for the town until 1767. He received his commission as a colonel in the Third Massachusetts Regiment from Governor Shirley in 1743, and was in command of troops on the Crown Point Expedition, where his valiant service won for him the right to bear arms, one of the few instances where an American colonist was granted a coat of arms by George II. Colonel Jones died before the outbreak of the American Revolution, but was an active member of the Committee of Safety and Correspondence during the turbulent years that preceded the war.

The tall slate in the old Revolutionary burying ground reviews the life of this pioneer, and sets forth his virtues:

Memento Mori  
Here lies the Body of  
John Jones Esq.  
Colonel of the third Regiment of Militia  
and Eldest Justice of the Peace  
in the County of  
Middlesex.  
And many Years a Representative for the  
Town in the General Court  
Who after a life well spent  
In the service of his Town  
and Country  
Died on the seventh day of february  
A. D. 1774 Aetat 82.

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If ere I feel my virtues fail  
And my ambitious thoughts prevail  
I'll take a walk among the tombs  
And see where to all Glory comes.

The mills which Colonel Jones and his son erected on the Sudbury River in the center of Ashland village were the first of a series of manufacturing enterprises undertaken by successive generations of the Jones family, which contributed in no small measure to the early growth of the little settlement.

His son, Colonel John Jones, Jr., inherited the water rights and mills along the river which had been established by his father. This second Colonel Jones was a slave owner, possibly the first in the region. Where the ruins of the old Print Works stand there was a row of four or five small houses which are said to have been built to serve as accommodations for the slaves connected with the Jones household. When the print works were built, this row of small houses had long ceased to be occupied by slaves, and had probably been used by workers in the mill. The new construction made necessary the removal of the houses, and they were set up in a new location on Water Street. In 1898, when one of these buildings was torn down, the space between the inner and outer walls was found to be filled with birch bark, probably for the additional warmth.

Another son of Colonel John Jones, Sr., was Anthony Jones. Born in Hopkinton on June 8, 1723, he built his house on the Hopkinton road on the place which later became known as the Enslin farm. The building has long since disappeared, but its location, on the rising ground back of the present Enslin house, is still known. Directly opposite was a famous Indian Spring. Anthony Jones marched with the Minute Men from Hopkinton, and served in the war of the American Revolution, where he was in Captain Mellen's company, Colonel Ward's regiment.<sup>63</sup> He died in 1782-3, and is buried in the old lot on Union Street.

Elisha Jones, son of Anthony, was born in 1768. As a young man he went to Concord, where he learned the trade of clothier. Here he was taught to take the cloth as it came from the hand looms, and do what was necessary until it was teasled, shrunk, fullled and pressed, and ready for the shears of the tailor. At the conclusion of his training in Concord young Jones returned to the village, where he opened his shop. He was one of the original members of the Framingham Artillery Company, organized in 1799, and is supposed to have participated in the War of 1812, serving at Fort Independence.<sup>64</sup>

Elisha Jones II was one of the pioneers in the manufacture of shoe pegs, and was associated with William Perry in this enterprise. Later he turned to making boots, and was one of the important men in the early village of Unionville. He died on September 26, 1875.<sup>65</sup>

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63. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution*, VIII, 898.

64. Mrs. Minnie Jones Stearns, *op. cit.*

65. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

The John Dyer house, so called, was built about 1780 by Abel Greenwood. Situated on Fountain Street, it is one of the most satisfactory of the early dwellings that remain in Ashland. It has a central hall from which open two large front rooms. There is a large square chimney in the center of the house. The rooms are attractive and well proportioned, and unusually high studded. In the rear is situated the old well room, which up to the time that the town water mains were installed was still being used.<sup>66</sup> Greenwood served in the Revolution, and the war rolls show a long series of enlistments, during one of which he marched to Rhode Island.<sup>67</sup> He is buried in the old Apple Street grounds in Framingham.

### FRANKLAND MANOR

In south Ashland, beside the road that the Hopkinton-to-Boston marathon runners traverse on the 19th of each April, stands the Frankland House, the third to be known by that name. It marks the site where, almost two centuries ago, the son of one of England's proudest families established a country estate patterned after the stately manors of old England. Of the original house nothing remains, but the terraces, the stone wall, the foundations of the huge barn, and the sandstone "plynths" imported from England for the support of the corn-crib, recall one of the most romantic tales of early American history. Beside the house stand two immense elms that Sir Henry Frankland caused to be planted, and across the road, in the distance, one may see the Holliston hills through the clearing he had cut.

A graded terrace yet remains,  
If on its turf you stand  
And look along the wooded plains  
That stretch on either hand,  
The broken forest walls define  
A dim, receding view,  
Where, on the far horizon's line,  
He cut his vista through.

So sang Oliver Wendell Holmes in his poem, "Agnes." The love of Sir Henry and Agnes Surriage has inspired many other pens, as well as much local legend. The story in brief is this.

The daughter of Oliver Cromwell, Frances, married Sir John Russell. Their daughter, Elizabeth Russell, married Sir Thomas Frankland of Thirkleby and Mattersea. One of the sons of this union was Henry Frankland, an officer in the British army, who was stationed in Bengal

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66. Mrs. Minnie Jones Stearns, *op. cit.*

67. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution*, VI, 860.

at the time of the birth, in 1716, of his son, Charles Henry. In 1741 the latter was made collector of the port of Boston. From 1746 to 1754 he served as a vestryman of King's Chapel, and was accepted as a substantial and prosperous citizen of the growing community. During the summer of 1742, on a visit to Marblehead, he saw a 16-year-old girl, Agnes Surriage, shabbily dressed, without stockings or shoes, scrubbing the floor of the Fountain Inn. Attracted by her beauty and intelligence, Frankland gave her a crown to buy shoes. A week or two later, returning to Marblehead, he noticed that she was still without shoes, and inquired the cause. Agnes Surriage explained, "I bought the shoes, but I am saving them for meeting on Sunday." Captivated by her beauty and naïveté, Frankland, with the approval of her parents, took the girl to Boston, where he placed her in school. Here she received the best training available, always keeping in close touch with her benefactor.

In 1746, on the death of his uncle, Charles Henry Frankland succeeded to the barony of Thirsk, and inherited the family estates of Thirkleby and Mattersea. About this time he had the girl move into his Boston home. This caused so much comment that Sir Henry determined to leave puritanical Boston, and a year or two later he purchased 480 acres from James Gooch, which included the greater part of Magunko Hill. On the southerly side of this hill, beside the old Connecticut Path, and overlooking the valley of Cold Spring Brook, he built what is commonly supposed to have been one of the most stately mansions in the country at the time. It was burned in 1858, just as Rev. Elias Nason, who had purchased the estate, was taking possession. Mr. Nason erected a second house on the site, but this too was burned. The present house, the third to stand here, is smaller and less imposing than the original.

From such sources as are now available, it appears that Sir Henry's house was three full stories in height, with a frontage of about 100 feet. Across the entire eastern end of the first floor was a large music room. A hall and circular stairway occupied the front center. At one side was the reception room; on the other, the music room. In the rear was a tremendous kitchen, and a dining room capable of seating 50 guests. The carriage entrance at the west end of the house led through a hall to a small retiring room. The second and third floors were given over to bedrooms and servant quarters. At one time 16 slaves were employed on the estate. Less authentic details regarding the interior of the house state that all of the fireplaces were constructed of genuine Italian marbles, that the woodwork throughout was of mahogany, and that the walls, from top to bottom, were covered with imported tapestries; even the shrubbery on the grounds was imported. In the rear of



the house, on the hillside, was laid out a formal garden, with boxwood hedges, blackthorn and lilacs. A spring, first used by the Indians and still in existence, flowed out of the hillside to the rear of the house.

Here Sir Henry and Agnes Surriage gave grand parties to their neighbors, the Valentines, Gooches, Wilsons and Prices, together with others of the select group who had been parishioners in King's Chapel, and had built country homes near by. Undoubtedly the hard-working farmers looked with amazement at this intrusion of "society" into their quiet country acres.

In 1754 Frankland returned to England to help settle a lawsuit, taking Agnes Surriage with him. She was accorded scant welcome by his family, and shortly thereafter they removed to Lisbon, where they took a house and remained for several months. On November 1, 1755, as Sir Henry and a lady acquaintance were driving, the great Lisbon earthquake overwhelmed them, completely smashing the carriage and crushing his companion. Frankland was entirely buried, but by some strange chance was not injured. Agnes managed to locate the place where he had disappeared, and with such help as she could hire or persuade to aid her, managed to dig him out, alive and unharmed. In gratitude for this, legend relates, Frankland married her, returning later to England, where she was accepted with every mark of respect.

The Franklands returned to the manor house after their brief visit in England, and spent three more years there and in Boston. Sir Henry took an active interest in the affairs of the community, as may be gathered from occasional entries in his diary. In one instance he writes that he "mentioned" John Jones to the Governor as a likely appointee to the position of sheriff of Middlesex County.<sup>68</sup>

After the death of Frankland in England, in 1768, Lady Frankland returned to the manor, where she spent most of her time for the next decade and a half. A contemporary letter relates that "Lady Frankland made a visit to Hopkinton . . . She behaves extremely well and is much taken notice of."<sup>69</sup> Lady Frankland finally returned to England and resided with the family until 1782, when she married John Drew, a wealthy banker of Chichester. She died in 1783, and is buried in that town.

Sir Henry Frankland's natural son, Henry Cromwell, born in 1740, lived with them in Hopkinton and in England and at one time held a commission in the British navy. He lived on the estate in Hopkinton for several years after the death of Lady Frankland.

Isaac Surriage, brother of Agnes, also settled in the town. He had a

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68. This diary is now in the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society; see also *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, Series I, Vol. XVIII, p. 351; see also manuscript by Charles K. Bolton of Shirley, on Sir Henry Frankland, Lady Frankland, and Henry Cromwell.

69. Price, Osgood, Valentine Papers, in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

small red house on the hill above Indian Brook, in Pig Lane.<sup>70</sup> His daughter, Jennie, married Pelatiah Bixby, who lived on the northeast corner of Cross and Frankland Streets. Mary Surriage, a sister, married John M'Clester, and their daughter, Sally, who became the wife of John Dupee, inherited the Frankland Manor from her aunt, Lady Frankland.<sup>71</sup>

## SALEM END AND OREGON DISTRICT

The first known white settler in Ashland north and west of the Sudbury River was John Collier, who in 1687 leased a piece of land on the eastern edge of the town, as it now stands, to the north of Reservoir Number Two. The name of this early planter has been preserved in the designation "Collier's Hill." At one time the bridge at Cutler's Mill, the site of which is now covered by the waters of the reservoir, was known as Collier's Bridge. Near this spot John Collier built his house.

A few years after Collier moved into the present Ashland area, several families, including the Bridges, Cloyeses and Nurses, driven from Salem by the witchcraft persecution, took up a tract in the newly opened town of Framingham. This section became known as Salem End, and a part of the property thus settled was set off to Ashland when the town was incorporated. These newcomers were shortly joined by many families who settled on the common land in the Oregon section of Ashland. Local names which figure in the later history of the town date from this settlement, and include the Chickering, Drury, Emerson, Rugg, Smith and Walkup families.<sup>72</sup> Several of the original homesteads which were built as the result of this immigration are still to be seen. Still visible, also, are the crude caves which the unfortunate people from Salem dug into the gravel banks in the early winter of their first arrival, when freezing weather made it impossible for them to undertake the construction of substantial dwellings until the following spring.<sup>73</sup>

South of Salem End and the Oregon District, taking in land running as far as Winter Street, was a large tract of wild terrain which still retains much of its original appearance. Here, about 200 years ago,

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70. Pig Lane is now known as Howe Street. That part of the old roadway which extended beyond the present street can be distinctly traced. Near by may be seen the old stone step, all that remains of the district schoolhouse. Several cellar holes, filled with brush and small trees, bear witness to the change that has taken place in what was once an important and well-settled part of the town.

71. For material about the manor, see:

Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Agnes";

Edwin Lasseter Bymer, *Agnes Surriage*;

Elias Nason, *Sir Charles Henry Frankland, Baronet*;

N. P. Sanborn, *The Fountain Inn: Agnes Surriage and Sir Henry Frankland*.

There is considerable material regarding the manor and Agnes Surriage in the collections of the Ashland Historical Society; included also is an early sketch of the building.

72. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

73. Information supplied by John Dearth.

William Richards built himself a house on the west side of Wild Cat Hill. The cellar hole of this place is still visible. In the early days this land had been set aside as a wood lot for the planters of Framingham; at a much later date a group of Framingham residents acquired the land for use as a hunting preserve. Wild Cat Hill is located in the center of this tract.<sup>74</sup>

## OTHER EARLY SETTLEMENTS

The transfer of the Danforth lands in 1693 to Thomas White and Joseph Buckminster has already been recorded. During the year following, John and Nathaniel Haven, sons of Richard Haven of Lynn, negotiated a lease with White and Buckminster for 500 acres of the upland. The lease was executed for a period of 999 years, as had been the lease given by Governor Danforth in 1693.

This tract included the long hill which extends from the northwestern side of Washakum Pond, and the Haven brothers, apparently before the lease had been executed, laid out lines of occupancy. Of this land, John Haven took over 300 acres, and Nathaniel Haven took 200 acres.

The section assumed by Nathaniel Haven afterwards became known as the Park farm. Here, to the northwest of Washakum Pond, Nathaniel erected his house. About 1850 this was occupied by Charles Morse; later it passed into the hands of the Learned family. Included also in this allotment was the William Greenwood place, later owned, with additions from the Charles Morse land, by Mrs. Isabella S. Morse and the heirs of Eleanor Bowditch. The Higley farm was also located in this tract.<sup>75</sup>

John Haven took over the northern two-thirds of the hill. This subsequently became known as the F. O. Grout farm. John probably never settled on his land here, but built his house at Parks Corner, in Framingham. About 1713, however, his son Nathaniel married and moved into the neighborhood. George T. Higley, the local antiquarian, supposed that his first dwelling "was a pretty small affair," but between 1720 and 1740 he built the large house that formerly stood on the site of the F. O. Grout residence, and to make room for it the old Haven place was torn down in or about 1855.<sup>76</sup> Temple, the historian of Framingham, suggests that a part of the earlier dwelling was incorporated in the new building. John Haven's widow married John Howe, who developed the water power on the Sudbury River at the Shepard Mill site. The two parcels of land leased by the two Haven brothers became a part of Ashland when the town was established on March 16, 1846.<sup>77</sup>

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74. Temple, *op. cit.*, pp. 13, 23, 159, 687.

75. George T. Higley mss. in Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

76. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

77. *Historical Data*, p. 35.



Nathaniel Haven, son of John, was also an extensive land holder. He had several children, but all of them died young, with the exception of a daughter, who married Elisha Goddard and probably settled in Sutton. In time Silence Goddard, a daughter of Elisha, inherited, through her mother, the land which had been held by Nathan. This daughter married Major John Hale, and for a time they occupied the old Haven house which had been built by Nathan. About 1803 this house and land passed into the hands of Elias Grout, Sr.<sup>78</sup>

Thomas Eames of Dedham early moved his family into land south and west of the Haven property, where he and his sons acquired large holdings on the brow of the hill along the easterly side of Cold Spring Brook, and in the valley where Chestnut Street now runs. At the time this was Framingham territory. Nathaniel Haven was captured by the Indians on February 1, 1676/7, at which time the original Eames house was burned, and his mother and other children in the family were massacred. Nathaniel managed to escape, and lived for a while in Framingham village, returning to the family freehold after 1700.

Closely associated with the Eames and Whitney families was the Death family. John Death was the first pioneer of this name, having first settled in Natick, and later in Sherborn, reaching the region between Cold Spring Brook and Washakum Pond, as far as can now be determined, about 1720, probably shortly after Jonathan Whitney settled in this neighborhood.

The date when settlement on this and the surrounding lands was actually effected is in doubt. Sherborn acquired nominal title to the territory in 1700, but it does not appear from the Sherborn records that the land was actually divided among the proprietors until the year 1720.

In the case of the Death family, family tradition places the date of the erection of the first Death house very close to the beginning of the eighteenth century, perhaps as early as 1705. It seems unlikely, however, that John Death would have built his house before the land had been set off to him. If this conclusion is correct, the first Death house must have been erected at about the same time as the original Jonathan Whitney House, or about 1720. This Whitney house is supposed to have stood where is now the old Whitney homestead.

The Death family bought a second house on the opposite side of the road leading to Sherborn before 1800, and John, Jr., who inherited the original Death lands from his father, left a certain part of the property to his widow, who bequeathed it to her sister, Mrs. Lucinda Wright. Mr. Wright built a house on this part of the original Death freehold.<sup>79</sup>

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78. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

79. *Ibid.*

In 1855 some of the Death family accepted a special act of the General Court and changed their name to How; others modified the old name and wrote "Dearth." This is the spelling adopted by the members of the family residing in Ashland.<sup>80</sup>

The Johnson, Smith and Jones families settled in the wilderness to the south of Framingham, along what is now Winter Street. The old Smith homestead still stands. Along the lowlands that border the north bank of the Sudbury River there were other early settlements, which held milling rights. John Collier, already mentioned, held land next to the Framingham line. Upstream was a small six-acre lot which Savil Simpson bought from Joseph Buckminster in 1707, in order to control the water power for a mill which he was then building. Above this lot, opposite the present village of Ashland, William Ballard leased 60 acres of Joseph Buckminster in 1707. Westward from this point the early settlements all were connected with the various mills.

Along the north bank of the Sudbury River lay a long triangular strip of land, about 200 rods wide at its easterly end, and following the river for about two and one-half miles, embracing a total of approximately 300 acres. This strip, because of its shape, was known as Fiddle Neck. It was laid out originally to Thomas Mayhew some time prior to 1699, but the grantee never received title to the land, and its ownership remained obscure for years. Mayhew later removed to Martha's Vineyard, where he spent 33 years preaching to the Indians. Nearly all of Fiddle Neck now lies in Southboro.<sup>81</sup>

## INCORPORATION

Ashland, in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, was incorporated by an act of the General Court on March 16, 1846. Outstanding among the residents of the little village that lay along the banks of the Sudbury River, then called Unionville, was James Jackson. It was due largely to the efforts of this man that the incorporation was effected. Jackson, together with 130 others, presented his first petition for town status to the General Court in 1837. At this time it was proposed to retain the Unionville name.<sup>82</sup>

The petition of 1837 was signed by less than 10 per cent of the total population, and brought immediate objection from Framingham, Holliston and Hopkinton, the three towns whose territory would be affected by the change. The General Court took no action other than to refer the matter to the next session.

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80. *Ibid.*

81. Temple, *op. cit.*, pp. 86, 87.

82. Higley, *op. cit.*, p. 536.

During the year that elapsed before the question of setting up the new town again came before the legislature, Rev. Joseph Haven, Jr., second pastor of the local church, took the matter in hand, and with Mr. Jackson enlisted the support of a much larger number of people than had signed the earlier petition. Other residents, however, opposed the measure, and took the trouble, either as individuals or in groups, of presenting their objections in Boston. The three towns affected sent official agents to voice their disapproval, and in the face of all this opposition the General Court promptly rejected the whole proposition.<sup>83</sup>

The entire question, it developed, revolved about the matter of pauper support, and this, in 1846, was settled to the satisfaction of the three communities. During that year a third petition was framed by Calvin Shepherd, Jr., and signed by James Jackson and 209 others.<sup>84</sup> Jackson, who was an ardent admirer of Henry Clay, proposed the name of Ashland, from the home of Clay in Kentucky.<sup>85</sup> Hopkinton and Framingham signified their approval of this proposal to establish the new town. Holliston, because its poorhouse was located within the proposed boundaries of the new community, not only continued to object, but appointed an attorney to present its side of the case. As had happened before, certain groups from the settlement itself also voiced their objections to the proposed separation.

However, the petition gained the approval of the General Court, and the statute incorporating the town, with the name of Ashland, was accordingly passed. This enactment was signed by Governor George N. Briggs, and became effective on March 16, 1846.

The first section of the act of incorporation described the boundaries of the new town, and invested it with all the powers, privileges and immunities possessed by other towns. The second article made the town liable for its proportion of all taxes previously assessed upon the parent towns, and article three laid down similar provisions concerning the support of paupers. Section seven made the poor farm owned by the town of Holliston, and located within Ashland, free of taxes by Ashland so long as it was owned and maintained by Holliston as a poor farm. Section nine compelled the new town to pay Hopkinton, within four years from the passage of this act of incorporation, the sum of \$600 as full compensation for its proportion of the town debt of Hopkinton.<sup>86</sup>

The year after Ashland was incorporated a plan of the town was made by William F. Ellis. When it was filed with the secretary of state, there was appended to it an affidavit, signed by the surveyor, to the effect that the two courses as given in the act of incorporation, relative

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83. *Ibid.*

84. *Ibid.*

85. Elias Nason, *Gazeteer of Massachusetts*, p. 64.

86. *Acts*, 1846, ch. 100.

to the line from Dropping Brook to the "Ploughshare," were incorrect. The affidavit set forth that "it was supposed" at the time of the enactment that the town of Holliston did not extend as far east as the "Ploughshare," when as a matter of fact, it did. Regardless of the precise bounds indicated on the act of incorporation, maps of Ashland since that time have been made to conform to the Ellis plan, connecting by a straight line the bound at Dropping Brook with the corner called the "Ploughshare."<sup>87</sup>

Two subsequent changes have been made. In 1848, after the town of Holliston had secured a new town farm within its own borders, the seventh section of the act of incorporation was repealed by the General Court.<sup>88</sup> On April 28, 1853, Ashland returned to Hopkinton a small triangular piece of land on the western corner of the town.<sup>89</sup>

Ashland, as it was finally constituted, comprises a tract of land lying in the southwestern part of Middlesex County, four miles long from east to west, three miles wide from north to south, with a total territory area of approximately 12.4 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Southborough and Framingham, on the east by Framingham and Sherborn, on the south by Holliston and Hopkinton, and on the west by Hopkinton and Southborough. Its Southborough boundary marks the division between Middlesex and Worcester counties. The Sudbury River flows through it from west to east, dividing it into two districts. There are two small contributing streams, Cold Spring Brook and Indian Brook, and on the easterly border of the town a part of Washakum Pond comes within the Ashland side of the bound that separates it from Framingham.

For the most part the land is moderately low, well watered and fertile, sloping gently toward the river. Wild Cat Hill,<sup>90</sup> near the center of the northern part of the town, rises to a height of 400 feet, the highest point of land in the town. About half of the district is wooded. Much of the former farming land has been inundated since the construction of the Metropolitan Water Works basin. The soil is rocky, which is characteristic of the vicinity. At one time deposits of iron ore were discovered in sufficient quantity to encourage the settlers to establish a smelting plant. But despite the local tradition that cannon were cast here successfully during the Revolution, it appears that the Ashland iron works, the "old Forge," was, like the famous Attleboro coal mine, of greater theoretical than practical value.

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87. Massachusetts Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners, *Boundary Lines of Towns*, preface, folio A.

88. *Acts*, 1848 ch. 199.

89. *Ibid.*, 1853 ch. 254.

90. This appears on various maps, plans and records as Wild Cat Mountain, Wildcat, Wild Cat Hill, and Wildcat Hill.



## GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

On March 16, 1846, the General Court passed the enactment establishing the town of Ashland. Two days later, on March 18, William Seaver posted the warrant for the first town meeting. The business of the meeting was:

Art. 1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.

Art. 2. To choose all necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

Art. 3. To see how the town will have their future meetings warned, and act thereon.<sup>91</sup>

Accordingly the town met at its first regular town meeting in Chapel Hall, on March 30, 1846, and at this and an adjourned meeting elected the following officers:

Daniel Eames, moderator.

F. W. Parkhurst, clerk.

Calvin Shepard, Jr., Josiah Burnham, Dexter Rockwood, Andrew Allard, Albert Ellis, selectmen.

William F. Ellis, Daniel Eames, S. N. Cutler, assessors.

William Eames, Calvin Dyer, William Seaver, overseers of the poor.

Benjamin Homer, treasurer.

Rev. Joseph Haven, Jr., Rev. Zenas P. Wild, William F. Ellis, superintending school committee.

James S. Baird, constable.

William Jennison, James Jackson, Calvin Dyer, Joseph Goodnow, Dexter Marsh, field drivers.

John Stone, Calvin Dyer, Henry Eames, fence viewers.

The town also authorized the selectmen to appoint fire wardens and highway surveyors, and to prepare and report a code of bylaws.<sup>92</sup>

The second meeting was held on April 8, 1846, and with the routine elections incidental to organization out of the way, the townsmen transacted a considerable amount of important business. They voted to set up a committee, consisting of the assessors, to arrange highway districts. The selectmen were made a committee to inspect the state of the bridges within the town, and report at a later meeting. A committee to "take into consideration schools, school houses and the division of school money" was appointed.

The selectmen were asked to settle the division of the expense of paupers with Holliston, Hopkinton and Framingham, and \$750 was appropriated for the support of the poor. Other appropriations included \$950 for schools and \$500 for highways. The treasurer was authorized

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91. Town Records, I, 3.

92. *Ibid.*, pp. 5, 6.



to borrow a sum not to exceed \$1000 to meet the demands on the town treasury. A committee was appointed to meet with the county commissioners with regard to a road leading from Widow Helen Valentine's to James Tufts', in Holliston. Calvin Shepard, Benjamin Homer and John Works were delegated to contract for the construction of a road between the houses of Jonas Bacon and Josiah Cloyes. John Aldrich was authorized to do highway work between his house and the Central Turnpike.

Silas Warren, William Eames and Lyman Fay were made a committee to build a town hearse house and purchase a hearse and a pall. The selectmen were instructed to see that the liquor laws were observed, and also to find out if Chapel Hall could be secured for the use of the town. An item in the warrant to pay Hopkinton \$600 for Ashland's proportion of the Hopkinton town debt was passed over without action.<sup>93</sup>

As a result of the action taken at this and at the previous town meeting, plans were formulated for laying out 13 highway districts. A cumbersome educational system was set up, which consisted of two distinct bodies with interlocking duties, made up of a town school committee of three members, and a prudential committee of seven members. Arrangements were made for continuing elementary schooling in Ashland, but high school students were transported to Framingham, a condition which prevailed until 1867, when the local high school was established.<sup>94</sup>

Although a tentative code of bylaws was presented to the town by the selectmen, acting in accordance with the action taken at the organization meeting of March 31, 1846, the town delayed adoption of bylaws until the year 1890.<sup>95</sup> In 1911 another revision was accepted.<sup>96</sup> The most recent code was accepted by the voters on June 30, 1922. No substantial change was made in the older bylaws. Chapter three of the 1922 code provided for a finance committee of nine members to be appointed by the moderator, to serve on the rotation plan of tenure, and specified that no town officer or board member should be eligible for such appointment. Under the terms of the new code this committee was authorized to hold one or more public meetings on articles in the town warrants which had to do with the appropriation of town money.<sup>97</sup>

During the first year of the new town's corporate history there was an epidemic of town meetings; seven were held in less than three months, and despite much talk and little accomplishment, some new

93. *Ibid.*, pp. 9, 10.

94. Ellis and Grout, *op. cit.*, pp. 227-235.

95. Higley, *op. cit.*, p. 537.

96. *Annual Reports*, 1911, p. 13.

97. *Ibid.*, 1935, p. 11.

roads were authorized, and provision was made for more schoolhouses. On March 20, 1846, the town appointed a committee to purchase half an acre of land and build a schoolhouse in district 2. Five hundred dollars was appropriated for this purpose. At the same time the first highway surveyors, 13 in all, were appointed. It was voted to pay 10 cents per hour for work on the highways, or 20 cents per hour for a man and team. A committee of three was appointed to investigate the possibility of securing a poor farm for the town.<sup>98</sup>

On June 1, 1846, the selectmen, for the first time, appointed several minor town officers:

Lemuel C. Jones, sexton.

Richard R. Brewster, Simeon N. Cutler, surveyors of lumber.

Timothy Woodcock, George W. Fairbank, Elnathan Hammond, John A. Whiting and William Jennison, measurers of wood and bark.

Calvin Dyer and William Seaver, sealers of leather.

Benjamin Homer, sealer of weights and measures.<sup>99</sup>

The town was divided into school wards or districts following the report of the committee set up for that purpose, and these divisions, with slight changes from time to time, were continued until 1880, when there began a move which resulted in the discontinuance of the old district schools and the centralization of educational work in the village, which had previously been the first school district.

As has been already pointed out, the new town started its municipal existence by the election of a moderator, town clerk, treasurer and five selectmen. This was shortly followed, at an adjournment of the organization meeting, by the election of three assessors, a board of overseers of the poor, fence viewers,<sup>100</sup> highway surveyors,<sup>101</sup> a sealer of weights and measures, fire wardens,<sup>102</sup> and a tax collector.<sup>103</sup> In addition to these officers there was, from the first, as required by law, a town constable, and the number of these officials has since varied in accordance with the needs of the growing community.

With this complement of town officials Ashland continued, without any substantial change, to carry on its town business until 1870. There were minor rearrangements of duties, and some changes in personnel, particularly with regard to the care of the poor and the street and road work, but during this long interval there appear only two new and distinct offices. The first of these is recorded in 1850, when the selectmen appointed a liquor agent, who transacted his town business from his

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98. Town Records, I, 13.

99. *Ibid.*, p. 16.

100. *Ibid.*, p. 6.

101. *Ibid.*, p. 13.

102. *Ibid.*, p. 16.

103. *Ibid.*, p. 10.

residence,<sup>104</sup> and a dog officer, who is listed for the first time in the reports for 1862.<sup>105</sup> During these years the titles of those who supervised the road work underwent some changes, but the duties remained the same. The controversies which had arisen with the towns of Hopkinton and Holliston regarding the support of the poor were settled on June 27, 1846.<sup>106</sup>

In 1870 several new positions were created. These added to the list of town officers the field drivers and the measurers of wood and bark, both operating on the district basis, and the surveyors of lumber and leather. In the same year the town set up a board of trustees for its newly opened Wildwood Cemetery. The records for 1872 add to these officials the "tramp officer," who cared for the "traveling poor," and continued in his duties until after the beginning of the twentieth century, after which the town, which appears to have been a mecca for the itinerant hobo, withdrew its hospitality and abolished the office.<sup>107</sup>

The fire department, which had functioned as a separate organization, came under the direct supervision of the town in 1873, when the board of fire engineers was established. In 1875 the town finance committee was set up,<sup>108</sup> and has since returned reports and recommendations regarding those articles in the town warrants which call for the appropriation of town funds. In 1879 there was recorded the first appointment of police officers.<sup>109</sup> The board of health dates from the following year,<sup>110</sup> and the office of town accountant, which superseded the earlier auditing committee, was established in 1881.<sup>111</sup>

In 1881 the first board of library trustees was elected.<sup>112</sup> The sinking fund commissioners were first elected in 1882, and the board was continued until 1903, when the town voted to abolish it.<sup>113</sup> The first superintendent of schools was appointed in 1889, when the joint school superintendency with the town of Hopkinton was established.<sup>114</sup> The water commissioners date from the year 1910.<sup>115</sup>

From the time of its organization in 1925, the Ashland planning board has played an important part in the progress made by the town. This board was set up to consider measures for public health and safety. The scope of its activities was increased before the end of the first year, however, and on January 25, 1926, the attorney general approved a

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104. Selectmen's Records, I, 3.

105. *Annual Reports*, 1862.

106. Town Records, I, 18-22.

107. *Annual Reports*, 1870.

108. Town Records, II, 60.

109. *Annual Reports*, 1879.

110. Town Records, II, 75.

111. *Annual Reports*, 1881.

112. Town Records, II, 193.

113. *Annual Reports*, 1881, 1903.

114. *Ibid.*, 1889.

115. Town Records, III, 9.

new town bylaw, which authorized the planning board "to consider and advise upon municipal improvements either at the request of other officials of the town or upon its own initiative." Its study and recommendations were to include streets, parks, and public buildings, and the board was privileged to hold public meetings and arrange for lectures. Under the terms of this new authority no plans for the layout of new streets or roadways, or the extension of existing ones, can be acted upon without first submitting to the board a complete schedule of whatever additions or changes are proposed. The board, after studying these proposals, may call a public meeting to provide for the general discussion of whatever matters may have come before it. Under the terms of the bylaw, this board may request, and receive, any public record of the town, for consideration and possible action.<sup>116</sup>

From the year of its incorporation the town has followed the traditional form of government typical of similar communities in the commonwealth. No radical departure from this plan has taken place, although some years ago an attempt was made to institute a modified form of town-manager government by the consolidation of some of the boards and town officials. There was no substantial support for this proposition.

Focal point of the local government is the town meeting, which elects or authorizes the appointment of all town boards, department heads, and other officials. The executive authority derived from the town meeting is vested in a board of selectmen, which has far-reaching discretionary powers.

## TOWN HALL

An article was inserted in the warrant for the town meeting of March 3, 1851, to see if the town would purchase Chapel Hall, which had been used since Ashland was incorporated as the schoolhouse for District number 1, and for the town meetings.<sup>117</sup>

On April 7th the town voted, instead, to set up a committee to select a piece of ground for the purpose of erecting a Town Hall thereon, with authority to purchase the same, and act in any way with regard to the erection of a Town Hall, or purchasing land for the site of said building, as may be thought best.<sup>118</sup>

The town also voted to pay \$500 to James Jackson for his equity in Chapel Hall building, payment however to be deferred until the first of December.<sup>119</sup>

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116. *Annual Reports*, 1935, p. 17.

117. *Town Records*, I, 107.

118. *Ibid.*, pp. 112, 113.

119. *Ibid.*, p. 115.



Thus matters stood for some time. At a town meeting held on November 14, 1853, the committee to procure a lot for a town house reported, to quote the record, "that they had done nothing," and the committee was discharged.<sup>120</sup> A new committee was appointed on December 26, 1853, to select three lots, from which the town might choose one.<sup>121</sup>

On January 5th of the following year the townsmen voted "not to build a Town House the present year."<sup>122</sup> This action was immediately followed by a vote authorizing the committee to build the town hall, and have it completed by the first of October, 1855.<sup>123</sup> However, the whole matter was again turned back to the voters for reconsideration at a subsequent meeting, and thereafter various plans and proposals were submitted, accepted, and rejected. Finally the choice of location was left with the committee, which proposed the removal of Chapel Hall, and the construction of a combined town hall, lock-up, and fire station on the site. The town accepted the recommendation of the committee, limiting the cost of the proposed building to \$10,000. The voters convened for the first time in the new town house on December 29, 1855.<sup>124</sup>

The report of the committee, which was accepted, read in part:

The Committee chosen in April last to build a Town House, consisting of a Basement for Engine room, a Lock-up, Furnace room, and two Playrooms for School children, Four Schoolrooms in the first story, and a Hall and Auditorium for Town purposes in the Second Story, have attended to the duties involved in that Enterprise, and most respectfully report as follows:

The whole Expense of the building proper is \$9,984.34.

The Chapel Hall sold for \$245.00.<sup>125</sup>

Later a front porch was added to the building, and changes in the interior have been made from time to time.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ashland fire department is an outgrowth of several volunteer fire-fighting organizations. These early companies retained their separate entities, elected their own members and chose their own officers. The jurisdiction exercised by the town, if indeed there was any at all, was purely nominal. On April 9, 1872, in compliance with the state law, the town elected a board of five fire engineers, and under this

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120. *Ibid.*, p. 159.

121. *Ibid.*, p. 160.

122. *Ibid.*, p. 171.

123. *Ibid.*

124. *Ibid.*, p. 210.

125. Town Archives, pp. 3-9.



supervision the department has since operated. The volunteer groups continue to hold separate meetings, select their members and elect their officers, but are subject in all these particulars to the final approval of the board. As has always been the case in Ashland, these individual groups, which together comprise the town fire department, are composed of call men who have volunteered to be responsible for this service. There are no full-time firemen in the department.

The first of the local fire-fighting organizations dates back to the Unionville days, when the center of the village was a part of the town of Hopkinton. This was called, at first, Union Fire Engine Company Number Four; when the town was incorporated the name was changed to Union Engine Company of Ashland. It had as its single piece of apparatus the "Magunko" hand tub, of which we shall hear more in subsequent pages.

In 1871 the hand tub was replaced by a steam fire engine, also bearing the same name, and the company was thereafter known as the Steam Fire Engine Company Number One.

In 1873 there was organized the James Jackson Hook and Ladder Company. The last recorded meeting of the Hook and Ladder Company was held on December 3, 1924. On January 7, 1925, the company was reorganized as Combination Number One.

There are, accordingly, for a period of many years, three more or less similar records of the fire department, comprising the minutes of the meetings held by the engine companies, the hook and ladder company, and the board of fire engineers. Among the accounts of regular and special meetings, ball games, dances, and various other data, are the infrequent records of fires. These accounts are not always in agreement as to time, ownership of property, or extent of damage done. Books are not numbered; many of them are not paged; some have no titles. It has therefore been impossible to indicate in the accounts of fires and other departmental activities that follow which of these many sources has been used. In fact, in some instances, it has been necessary to use parts of two or more individual accounts in order that a comprehensive record may be presented.<sup>126</sup>

The first volunteer fire department, organized in the Unionville days under the name of Union Engine Company Number Four, numbered 58 men. Business meetings were usually held in Chapel Hall; sometimes in Major Shepard's barn.

Hardly had this company been organized before it extended an

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126. The condition and method of keeping the records of the Ashland fire department and its various volunteer companies make documentation of much of the material contained in this section, and the section on "Fires," impossible. Information not credited to other sources is taken from these note and record books, or from data derived from the collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

invitation to the other companies in Hopkinton, of which it was then a part, to participate in a competitive drill to be held in Unionville. Thus began the long series of meets, exhibitions, dances, social functions, ball games and "glass ball shoots," which have continued, with more or less regularity, up to the present time. The records of this first company, and those which followed, aside from their accounts of actual fire fighting, reflect the importance of the department as a social group, and are replete with accounts of those drills, annual "washouts," oyster suppers, parades, and, in later years, the annual firemen's ball, the social event of the year, and an affair which usually ended by causing a substantial deficit in the department treasury. In 1845 the hand tubs held a competition in Unionville with the Woodville Company, and the efficiency of the old hand tubs then in use seems to be well attested by the record, which says "our streams of water went thirty feet above the spire of the Congregational Church."

The accounts of the fires are so written that they read more like adventures from an Alger story than excerpts from the minutes of a serious and important town organization. Here is, for instance, part of the colorful record of the Central Block fire of June 15, 1889:

Things began to look hot, but the boys, with looks of determination on their faces, and two powerful streams from their little dandy in their hands, grappled with the fiery monster in a way that meant business. One stream swept the side of the block for an instant and then caromed on to Thayer's stable buildings, and the fire there was quickly fixed so that the bucket men could take charge of it, the other stream after knocking the stuffing out of the carriage house swept the roof of the Hotel and the fiery monster then, like Davy Crockett's coon, gave up the ghost. By this time the flames had crept under the roof of the block and were having a merry time in the attic. Our engineers hurled the whole force on that attic and the fight began in earnest, amid falling slate and burning timber; the boys, working like beavers, darted hither and thither with their streams, putting them where they would do the most good, and with such good effect that Old Fiery was not allowed to get out of the attic, where he soon died a lingering death.<sup>127</sup>

On August 10, 1871, the town voted to authorize the purchase of a steam fire engine, together with whatever equipment was necessary for it. At the same time a suitable engine house was authorized.<sup>128</sup> A proposal to establish a hook and ladder company was presented to the voters at an annual meeting in 1872.<sup>129</sup> The selectmen investigated the

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127. Records of the Fire Department, p. 414.

128. Town Records II, 14.

129. *Ibid.*, p. 30.

cost of purchasing the proposed hook and ladder, and found that this would involve the appropriation of more money than the town was willing to spend. Instead of dropping the matter, the selectmen persuaded the neighboring town of Marlboro to lend them its hook and ladder apparatus, and volunteer labor, working at top speed, constructed a duplicate from this model, which, all together, cost Ashland no more than \$500 and detained the Marlboro hook and ladder from its home quarters less than 48 hours.<sup>130</sup>

Meanwhile a small frame building had been constructed on the triangular lot of land near the railroad station for the steam fire engine and the new apparatus. This was known as Engine Hall. By a special vote of the town its use was strictly limited to the legitimate purposes of the fire department.<sup>131</sup> A fire bell, secured from the Holbrook foundry in Medway at a cost of \$500, was placed in Engine Hall in 1878.<sup>132</sup> This bell continued to be used as the town "fire alarm" until the siren was installed in the new engine house in 1928. The bell, not now used, hangs in the new structure.

With the arrival of the steam-operated Magunko engine the old Magunko was stored in the basement of the town hall. The subsequent history of this old hand tub, winner of many competitions for the local department, is discouraging. After it had been in storage for some years the members of the new engine company raised the sum of \$100, with which they proposed to purchase the ancient apparatus from the town, to use for "recreational purposes." The town fathers, for reasons which are not now apparent, declined to accept this offer, and instead sold the Magunko to Perry & Enslin for a much smaller sum, with the express provision that it be broken up before being removed from the town hall.<sup>133</sup> Thus passed Magunko I, which in its earlier days had been the initial cause of the long-protracted quarrel between Hopkinton and Ashland.<sup>134</sup>

The second Magunko engine received more appropriate treatment. Although it had long since lost its original silver plating, it was still outstanding as a "museum piece" when the Ashland department was motorized, and was purchased by Fred Stone, of Sudbury, then the district fire warden. Housed on the Stone estate at Sudbury, the Magunko still makes public appearances from time to time in Fourth of July and other celebrations throughout the state.<sup>135</sup>

In 1918 the town appointed a committee to investigate the cost of

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130. *Ibid.*, p. 41.

131. *Ibid.*, p. 48.

132. *Ibid.*, p. 136; Records of the Fire Department, VI, 41.

133. Town Records, II, 395.

134. For details regarding the quarrel between the towns of Ashland and Hopkinton, see section following, "Ashland-Hopkinton Controversy."

135. Information supplied by Charles N. Stone, town highway surveyor.

securing a combination chemical truck for the department, but no immediate action resulted.<sup>136</sup> In 1922 a triple combination Maxim engine was purchased at a cost of \$9000 and at the same time the department replaced much of the fire hose then in use.<sup>137</sup> This new equipment made necessary the immediate consideration of plans for enlarged housing facilities, and for some years opinion was divided as to whether the old engine house should be moved to another location and enlarged, or a new fire station be erected.

In 1924 the town approved a plan to remodel the existing engine house, but not to move it.<sup>138</sup> This measure proved inadequate to meet the requirements of the department, and in 1927 a committee was authorized to secure estimates and plans for a suitable fire station.<sup>139</sup> The new station, built at a cost of \$25,000, was completed and turned over to the town by the committee in 1928. The Warren Telechron Company donated the illuminated dial clock which adorns it.<sup>140</sup> In 1937 a committee was appointed to consider the purchase of a combined pump and ladder truck,<sup>141</sup> and \$10,000 was appropriated the following year for this purpose.<sup>142</sup>

## ASHLAND-HOPKINTON CONTROVERSY

During the early days of the town's corporate history the old Magunko hand tub became the center of a spirited controversy between Ashland and Hopkinton. It engendered a bitterness between the two communities which lasted for many years. This town quarrel had its inception on the night of August 13, 1846, and received its first official recognition a month later, when Ashland took the first retaliatory step. On September 12th of that year the matter was brought before the townsmen in the following words:

To see if the town will authorize a suit or suits, to be brought against any person or persons concerned in breaking and entering the Engine House on the thirteenth day of August last, and removing therefrom the "fire Engine," or pass any vote in relation thereto.

The town promptly appointed a committee to decide the best approach to the problem. This committee took the matter under consideration while the meeting recessed "until the tolling of the Bell." During its deliberations the voters, gathered in Chapel Hall, awaited with impa-

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136. Town Records, III, 282.

137. *Ibid.*, p. 435.

138. *Ibid.*, p. 481.

139. *Ibid.*, p. 595.

140. *Annual Reports*, 1929, p. 142.

141. Town Records, IV, 130.

142. *Ibid.*, p. 153.



tience the outcome of this preliminary conference. In due time the committee returned the following report:

That Calvin Shepard, Williams Sears, and Benjamin Homer, be a committee to prosecute the matter, and employ such counsel as they think proper, and that they be hereby authorized to prosecute any, and all legal remedies, which the town may have, against any person or persons concerned in breaking and entering the Engine House, and removing therefrom the fire engine and all apparatus pertaining thereto; and for any and all trespass upon said House or Engine, as they may think proper.

The voters lost no time in accepting this report of the committee.<sup>143</sup>

This deliberate theft of the fire engine and apparatus, the old Magunko tub, which for a time left the town without any fire protection, was the action of some Hopkinton citizens, who had resented the separation of Ashland, and had determined to "get even" when the new town retained the fire fighting apparatus for which the Hopkinton taxpayers had spent their money. That this was done by these Hopkinton residents in good faith cannot be doubted. The Magunko tub had been in the Unionville days when Ashland village was a part of Hopkinton, the basis for the organization of Union Engine Company Number Four, a recognized part of the Hopkinton fire department. The apparatus was the property of the town, the department was a volunteer organization, made up of local men who, at the time that the town petitioned for separation, entertained no great love or respect for the parent community. In retaining the Magunko tub, Ashland kept only that which, with good reason, it believed the town was entitled to have. Hopkinton residents thought otherwise.

On August 13, 1846, the Hopkinton delegation took matters into its own hands, and descended on the Ashland fire station in the middle of the night. So carefully planned and well executed was this midnight raid, that the tub and its equipment was well on its way to Hopkinton before the visit was discovered. By the time Ashland was aware of what was transpiring nothing remained of their fire fighting equipment but the bare walls and roof of the little engine house.

Pending settlement of the ensuing controversy, and in some unexplicable manner, Ashland was able to regain possession of the Magunko. Neither town, however, was willing to relinquish any part of its claim to rightful ownership. The matter dragged on for months. The warrant for the town meeting held in Ashland on April 5, 1847, contained an article relating to the difficulty:

To see if the town will choose a Committee to hear any proposition that may be made from the town of Hop-

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143. Town Records, I, 24, 25.



kinton for the settlement of the difficulties now existing between the two towns, and give them such instructions as may be thought best.<sup>144</sup>

Ashland was not ready to resume cordial relations with the parent town, nor were the voters disposed to listen to any "proposition" that might be advanced by the other town. The article in the warrant was passed over without action.<sup>145</sup>

Again, on April 18, 1849, the town meeting passed over an item to establish a committee to negotiate with Hopkinton,<sup>146</sup> and the original committee, which had been set up on September 12, 1846, put the whole matter into the courts. By this time, however, the original plan of proceeding against the individuals who had participated in the midnight raid on the Ashland fire house had been abandoned; instead, proceedings were instituted against the town of Hopkinton, which was accused of trespass, breaking and entering, and robbery.

A detailed report was returned to the town on May 6, 1850, by which time the case had been settled, to the satisfaction of no one concerned. By a division of the property affected, Ashland retained the Magunko hand tub; Hopkinton was given title to the equipment that went with it.<sup>147</sup>

Although the decision of the court brought to an end the fire house controversy, it did nothing to restore any inclination to resume friendly relations. Both towns set about to find some other means of "evening the score" between them. Within a short time such a circumstance became available.

In December, 1850, Hopkinton came forward with the proposition that Ashland agree to a plan whereby scholars in Ashland could attend school number 5 in Hopkinton, and scholars in Hopkinton attend school number 3 in Ashland.<sup>148</sup> This appears to have been made with some reason, for both districts were near the other towns. Several decisions with regard to school matters resulted. Ashland, at a special meeting held on December 21st of that year, expressed its unwillingness to coöperate with any plan originating in Hopkinton in these words:

Voted, not to accede to the terms of arrangement made by the town of Hopkinton.

Voted, that Messrs. Frail, Hyde & Mrs. Fairbanks draw from the Town Treasury \$3.00 per scholar for the present year, and school their own children.

Voted, that the School Committee have discretionary powers with regard to scholars out of town—to admit them

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144. *Ibid.*, p. 33.

145. *Ibid.*, p. 35.

146. *Ibid.*, pp. 76, 77.

147. *Ibid.*, p. 93.

148. *Ibid.*, p. 103.

to our schools on such terms as they shall deem proper, or to exclude them.<sup>149</sup>

Nor was this the end of the matter. A group of Ashland young men, mindful of the original theft of the Megunko tub, returned the compliment by going to Hopkinton, where they appropriated a Revolutionary cannon, the pride of the town, which they removed to Ashland and put it on display. Hopkinton promptly organized a rescue party, and the cannon was reclaimed. Subsequently this same cannon, on several occasions, made midnight trips from one town to the other. Finally, Ashland hit upon the plan of sinking it in one of the ponds, from whence it appeared regularly on the eve of each 4th of July. Still in the possession of Ashland, this ill-fated piece of ordnance was, on one Independence Day, hauled to the top of Magunko Hill, and exploded when it was about to be fired. One man was killed.<sup>150</sup>

## SCHOOLS

Prior to the incorporation of Ashland as a town, in 1846, the school districts were about equally divided between Hopkinton and Framingham. In fact, one of the Hopkinton districts was so divided by the newly established boundary lines that its schoolhouse stood directly across the line, in Ashland territory. These early divisions were not continued.

At the town meeting held on April 8, 1846, a committee was appointed to investigate the proposition to set up new districts.<sup>151</sup> As a result of the work of this committee there were established seven such divisions, indifferently called school districts or school wards, each supervised by a member of the prudential school committee.<sup>152</sup>

The school house for District Two was authorized and built during this year, this being the first building to be erected for school purposes after the incorporation of the town.<sup>153</sup> Eventually each ward or district had its schoolhouse, located as follows:

District One: On Main Street, diagonally across from the Congregational Church.

District Two: On the westerly side of Oliver Street, approximately one-quarter of a mile south of Union Street.

District Three: On the north side of Howe Street, about one-quarter of a mile beyond the place where the road crosses Indian Brook.

District Four: On the north side of Winter Street, west of the junction of Winter and Fisher Streets.

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149. *Ibid.*, p. 104.

150. Information supplied by Leon W. Davis and Charles N. Stone.

151. Town Records, I, 9.

152. Higley, *op. cit.*, p. 541.

153. Town Records, I, 13.

District Five: On Oregon Street, one-half mile to the west of North Street.

District Six: On the west side of Fountain Street.

District Seven: On the east side of Cedar Street.<sup>155</sup>

The schoolhouse in District Seven was, from the first year, overcrowded with pupils, and an unsuccessful attempt was made in 1846 to abolish the district altogether, and redistribute the pupils to other schoolhouses, with relocations proposed in some instances. Some idea of the size of this early building, which had to accommodate more than 30 pupils, may be gained from the fact that the second schoolhouse erected for the district, in order to relieve the congestion, measured only 30 feet by 38 feet.<sup>156</sup>

In the winter of 1847, before the new schoolhouse was authorized for this district, the term was brought to an abrupt termination by the scholars themselves, who revolted against the cold, cramped quarters, and literally took the building apart. In expressing its regret regarding this unprecedented uprising, the superintending school committee observed:

Your Committee are of opinion that the failure of the School was mainly attributable to a disposition on the part of some of the scholars, to make havoc of the old schoolhouse. If the perpetrators of the damage done to the house, while the school was keeping, could have been followed up, at the time, with suitable chastisements at home, order might have been sustained, so as to have brought about a better result.<sup>157</sup>

In 1846 the new schoolhouse for District Seven was built on Cedar Street, about one-eighth of a mile north of the Eames homestead at the corner of Cedar and Fruit Streets, and about the same distance south of the location of the former building. This was a small frame structure, and measured, as has already been said, 30 feet by 38 feet. Lyman Fay was commissioned to do the construction work, and specifications called for "first rate western Hemlock, free from knots on the outside, with a floor of southern yellow Pine," the whole to be painted white with "three coats of the best Paris green and oil" on the blinds. Included in the contract were the interior furnishings, and Mr. Fay agreed to see that the tops of the desks "be neatly rounded on both ends."<sup>158</sup>

The first annual report of the superintending school committee was returned to the town in April, 1847. This report presents an interesting

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155. *Map of Ashland Published by the Town*. This map shows the location of all district schoolhouses as they existed when the divisions were set up, with the exception of that in District Seven, where the location of the second schoolhouse to be built in the district is indicated.

156. *Town Archives*, pp. 8-21.

157. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-11.

158. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-23.

picture of the Ashland educational system as it existed during the first years of the town's corporate history:

The whole number of children in town, between the ages of four and sixteen, on the first day of May last, was 290. Add to this 10 children under 4 years of age, and 21 over 16, and we have 321 children, within our limits, enjoying the privilege of common school instruction. Of these, the whole number who attended school in summer was 222, and in winter 225. Average attendance in summer 176, and in winter 186; making only 11/20 of the whole number, who enjoyed the advantages of attending school in summer, and something less than 12/20 in the winter. These things ought not so to be. If our common schools are calculated to benefit the rising generation; to instill into the minds of our youth a knowledge of those common scientific principles, which alone can fit them to discharge the important duties of life understandingly and profitably to themselves and others, then our common schools cannot innocently be neglected; and the parents and guardians, who unnecessarily kept their children from school, are inflicting upon them, and upon the community, a serious injury. Your committee consider that parents and guardians are responsible, to a great extent, for the ignorance and immorality, in which many of our youth are growing up; and responsible, too, in no small degree, for the misery, vice, crime and pauperism, almost necessarily resulting therefrom. The precept "Train up a child in the way he should go," seems to be unheeded by many, of whom we might expect better things.<sup>159</sup>

In 1854 the town was given a lot of land at the corner of Thomas and Winter Streets, where a new school building, serving the pupils residing in District Three, was built. This was known as the Chattanooga School.<sup>160</sup> The following year, 1855, saw the reduction of the number of school districts from seven to six.<sup>161</sup> During the summer and fall of this year a new school building was erected for the Center, or District One, replacing Chapel Hall, which had been used for school purposes previously. This new school was a two-story building, 64 feet long and 38 feet wide, with each floor divided in the center, making four school-rooms with a capacity of approximately 60 pupils each.<sup>162</sup>

No appointments to the prudential committee were made after 1862, and the town school committee took over the supervision of the then existing districts, together with the duty of securing teachers.

At a town meeting held on April 2, 1855, a committee of seven was appointed to study the school system and submit a plan for its reorgan-

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159. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-10.

160. Town Records, I, 178; Town Archives, pp. 8, 9.

161. Town Archives, pp. 8, 9.

162. *Ibid.*



ization. Its report was accepted by the town on December 29, 1855. As a consequence of these recommendations a high school was established, and started to function on May 12, 1856. There was no prescribed course of study at the completion of which a pupil should graduate, and the entire plan of operation shows the haste with which the town adopted the high school plan and attempted to make it effective.<sup>163</sup> Horatio M. Allen was appointed principal of the new high school, but after two years of experimenting the town declined to appropriate further money with which to carry it on.<sup>164</sup>

The reluctance of the town to continue with the high school brought into the town a private educational enterprise, sponsored by Worden Reynolds, who had been the principal of Worcester Academy. This institution was opened in a single room in the Center.<sup>165</sup> On March 3, 1862, it was voted that the town pay \$2.50 per term for the education of such pupils as desired to attend the Reynolds school, limiting the total appropriation to \$250 per annum. This amount was not sufficient to pay the tuition of all who wished to take advantage of the new school. In 1863, at the end of the summer term, there came a definite break between the town school committee and the principal of the private school, and the whole matter was laid before the secretary of the state board of education. It was then discovered that the town had voted to pay tuition charges without legal authority, and as a result, at a special meeting held on July 18, 1863, it was voted to discontinue further payments. The Reynolds school, faced with the loss of a large proportion of its anticipated revenue, promptly closed its doors, and the promoter of the plan left Ashland.<sup>166</sup>

The matter of setting up a new high school continued to be discussed in town meetings from 1859 to 1867, but no favorable action was taken. Finally, in April, 1867, the town appropriated \$1000 with which to make a second attempt. The new school was united with the grammar school, with one principal in charge of both departments, and an assistant to teach the grammar school grades. In June, 1867, the school committee voted to allow the principal to "try out" the five hour system.<sup>167</sup> At the end of the first year the school committee reported that the new plan was proving satisfactory, and that the attempt to reestablish the high school had been successful.<sup>168</sup>

The enrollment during the first years was extremely limited. At the beginning of the summer term of 1869 the total number of scholars in the combined grammar grades and the high school was only 34. In

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163. Frank J. Metcalf, *History of the High School, Ashland Mass.*, p. 7.

164. *Ibid.*, p. 9.

165. *Ibid.*

166. *Ibid.*

167. *Ibid.*, pp. 11, 12.

168. *Annual Reports*, 1867.



1870 the high school classes were held for the first time in a room separate from the grammar school division. The following year the high school conducted its first graduation exercises, which consisted of presenting written certificates to the two boys who had completed the prescribed course. In 1872, there was one graduate, and in 1873, fourteen members were graduated. In 1874, because of the increased enrollment, the high school was separated from the grammar graded school, and became a self-contained educational unit.<sup>169</sup>

Early in 1871 the town gave its attention to the need for a new schoolhouse at the Center. It was located on the east side of the Boston & Albany tracks, on Main Street; it was two stories high, 67 feet by 31 feet, with two schoolrooms each 25 by 30 feet, in each story.<sup>170</sup> The new building was known as the South School.<sup>171</sup> In 1880, largely on account of the dismantling of the Alden and the Cutler mills, caused by the changes made in the river by the Metropolitan board, many families were forced to remove from District Five, and it was thought best to discontinue the school there, and send the children to the Center District or to other schools.<sup>172</sup> This was the beginning of a movement that culminated in the abandonment of all the outlying district schools, and the establishment of graded schools for the use of the entire community in what had been District One.

In 1885 the town appointed a special committee of five members to consider the construction of a new high school building, which would also embrace accommodations for the intermediate and grammar grades.<sup>173</sup> This building was put up, after some delay, and was first used in 1890. It was the most ambitious school building yet erected in the town, and measured 55 by 65 feet, with two stories, each 13 feet high. The first floor was occupied by the graded school, and the second by the High School. The main recitation room measured 35 by 40 feet.<sup>174</sup>

In 1889, taking advantage of a new law, Ashland effected a joint school union with the town of Hopkinton, and a superintendent of schools was chosen for the two towns.<sup>175</sup>

The warrant for the town meeting held on April 18, 1890, contained an article which proposed the sale by the town of the school buildings on Howe Street, in the rear of the town hall, and on Olive Street.<sup>176</sup> The

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169. Metcalf, *op. cit.*, pp. 14-17.

170. Town Records, I, 8.

171. Town Archives, pp. 1-8.

172. *Annual Reports*, 1880, p. 24.

173. *Ibid.*, 1885, p. 54.

174. Metcalf, *op. cit.*, pp. 40, 41.

175. Higley, *op. cit.*, p. 541.

176. Town Records, II, 394.

following September there was added to this list the schoolhouse on Fountain Street.<sup>177</sup>

As a result of these various sales and building operations the school plant of the town became centralized in the village. Two buildings, known as the North and South schools, for some years provided adequate accommodation for the scholars, but increased enrollments again made it necessary, during the early years of the century, to give attention to the growing need for additional facilities and space.

A committee was named to make a careful survey of the high and graded schools, and in 1928 two proposals were laid before the town. The first of these was to purchase the Dix property on Central Street, and there build a substantial addition to the existing high school building. The second proposition was to secure land owned by Mrs. John Chellis on Union Street for the erection of a graded school building. These proposed schoolhouses, together with the old high school building, would house all the educational facilities of the town.<sup>178</sup>

At a meeting of the voters held on June 25, 1928, the town took action on these recommendations. The purchase of the land on Central Street and on Union Street was authorized. Alterations and additions to the high school building were approved, the cost not to exceed \$20,400. A 12-room building for the graded schools was also approved, to cost, with equipment and furnishings, \$100,000. A building committee was appointed.<sup>179</sup>

As a result of this action the town secured the excellent educational plant now in use in the village. The new buildings and additions were constructed along approved modern lines, and have proven adequate in every respect. Early in 1934 the South school building, no longer necessary, was torn down.<sup>180</sup> Only one substantial change has been made in the new buildings since their completion. This was in 1937, when the town appropriated \$4000 to finish and equip a room in the basement of the high school building for use as a laboratory.<sup>181</sup> During 1934 the school committee received a bequest of \$500 under the terms of the will of Alice M. Bowditch,

the income to be used to provide prizes for the pupils of Ashland Public Schools who prepare and submit the best essays on civil government, citizenship or any subject pertaining to the history of government of the U. S. of America. It is my request that if practicable the awarding of prizes be limited to pupils of eighth grade. This fund is to be known as the Galen M. Bowditch History Prize.<sup>182</sup>

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177. *Ibid.*, pp. 395, 398.

178. *Ibid.*, III, 621, 623, 624, 625.

179. *Ibid.*, pp. 626, 627.

180. *Ibid.*, p. 800.

181. *Ibid.*, IV, 129.

182. *Ibid.*

## POST OFFICE

Post office facilities were established in Ashland, when the village was still known by the name of Unionville, in 1835.

The business center was then apparently at the north end of Main Street, for it was in a mill store at that location that the first post office was established. That was on January 7, 1835. The office remained in that location for the next 12 years, during which time several other prominent citizens served as postmasters.

Shortly after the village of Unionville was incorporated as Ashland, the office was transferred to the store of G. W. Jones, at the corner of Main and Summer Streets. In 1851 the office was again transferred, to a new location at the westerly end of the railroad station, where Mr. Jones performed his duties as railroad agent as well as postmaster.

In 1864 the post office department at Washington arranged the office by classes. The annual sales of the local post office must have been approximately \$1000, since the Ashland office was placed in the fourth class. In the latter part of 1872 it was advanced to the third class.

About 1875 the location of the office was changed to a small building located between the Houghton house and the Coburn building at the corner of Main and Front Streets. In 1886 the office was transferred to the Coburn building situated on the north side of Front Street. Here the office remained for the next 35 years. In 1920 it was transferred to the Odd Fellows building at the corner of Summer and Main Streets.

On July 1, 1928, the office was again advanced to the second class, in which class it still remains. Additional office personnel was required and added. In November, 1930, the Odd Fellows Building Association renovated their building to accommodate the much needed additional floor space required by the post office. On September 1, 1931, the village carrier system was inaugurated. The local office has thus advanced from the third class, doing a business of approximately \$2200 in 1884, to the second class, doing a business of approximately \$27,000 in 1939, an increase of approximately \$25,000 annually.<sup>183</sup>

In 1940 the town dedicated a new post-office building located at the corner of Summer and Main Streets, which had been erected in conjunction with the Federal Works Agency at a cost of \$58,000, of which \$11,000 was paid for the land. The cornerstone of the new building was laid with brief exercises on January 8, 1940, and the dedication of the building followed on July 20. The new post office is appropriately situated, carefully planned, and well equipped. This is in marked contrast to the post office of earlier years, in the old railroad station, where the

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183. Edward F. Quigley, "History of the Ashland Postoffice," ms., in collections of Ashland Historical Society.

incoming mail, as older residents still recall, was placed in a large rotating wheel affixed to the wall, so arranged that any resident by turning the wheel would eventually come to his own mail, and in the process have an opportunity to inspect that of his neighbors.

### ASHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

From time to time, beginning as far back as 1815, various individuals had conducted small lending libraries in the community, and in 1859, with money raised by private subscription, the Agricultural Library, a free institution, was started.<sup>184</sup> As time went on the supply of books in this library was increased until it finally reached the impressive total of 125 volumes. The Agricultural Library finally succumbed because of over-popularity, disappearing simultaneously with its last unreturned volume.

This left the community with no library facilities whatsoever. Many years passed before a few public minded citizens brought to the attention of the townspeople the need for a local library, but once this movement got under way it was enthusiastically supported, and the Ashland Public Library was opened in the east anteroom of the town hall in the spring of 1881.

The first immediate efforts in behalf of the Ashland Public Library were made in the spring of 1880. An article upon the subject was inserted in the warrant for the April meeting, and at that meeting it was voted to establish and maintain a public library. A committee was then organized, with Adrian Foote as chairman and G. T. Higley as secretary. No definite plans for future action, however, were marked out, beyond voting to circulate subscription papers for the purpose of raising funds to purchase books.

At a meeting held November 15th, attended by the town officers, the pastors of two of the churches, and other civic-minded townspeople, it was decided to run a series of entertainments to raise funds. The churches and other public organizations were invited to participate in and make arrangements for talent for these entertainments. The Congregational Society, on the first evening, presenting a full and attractive program, gave the enterprise a good sendoff with a large house. On the second evening the Sons of Temperance succeeded in giving pleasure to an audience of good numbers. On the third the serious lecture furnished by the Methodist Church, if not so popular with the multitude as the preceding exercises, gave excellent satisfaction to the audience present. For the last two events, the presentation of a carefully prepared play by the Ashland Dramatic Club and a turkey supper, almost

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184. Higley, *op. cit.*, pp. 543, 544.



the entire community turned out, and the hall was filled to its capacity. After paying all expenses \$250 remained as the net proceeds of these entertainments. Subscription papers were now drawn up and circulated through the town, and even beyond its limits among former inhabitants. The entire amount of money raised through this movement for establishing the public library was over \$900.

These events occurred in the winter of 1880 and 1881. At the annual town meeting held in the following March, the committee made a report of its proceedings, which was accepted and placed on file. The same persons were reelected as the library committee for the ensuing year, under the name of Trustees of the Library. It was voted to devote the east anteroom of the town hall to the purposes of the library, and to appropriate to its use permanently the return dog tax. The immediate work before the trustees was to put the room in proper shape, purchase the books with these funds on hand, and place the library in circulation. No pains were spared to make the selection worthy and to keep out all objectionable books. About 750 volumes were purchased. The services of a librarian were secured, and the library was opened to public use on the ninth day of April, 1881. By 1885 it had more than 1600 volumes.<sup>185</sup>

In 1895 a legacy provided under the will of Lucy A. Stone became available for building a suitable town library. No immediate action was taken to make use of this money, however.<sup>186</sup>

In 1903 Andrew Carnegie offered to give to the town a library building provided a site was made available and the town guaranteed at least \$1000 yearly for its support.<sup>187</sup> A new committee, consisting of 15 persons, was appointed to give the matter consideration.<sup>188</sup> This committee made its first report at a meeting held on April 13, 1903, as a result of which the town voted to accept Mr. Carnegie's offer.<sup>189</sup> A building committee was then appointed.<sup>190</sup> Immediately thereafter a letter was read from Mr. Abner Greenwood, giving to the town a lot on Front Street suitable for a library building.<sup>191</sup> This offer of Mr. Greenwood was promptly accepted, and the town then voted to extend to Mr. Carnegie its thanks.<sup>192</sup>

A difficulty now arose in regard to the Lucy A. Stone Fund, which it was hoped might be added to the Carnegie donation. The trustees of the fund reported that it would be necessary to resort to court action to

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185. *Annual Reports*, 1884, pp. 43-53.

186. *Town Records*, II, 500, 644.

187. *Ibid.*, p. 655.

188. *Ibid.*, pp. 660, 661.

189. *Ibid.*, pp. 665, 666.

190. *Ibid.*, p. 666.

191. *Ibid.*

192. *Ibid.*, p. 667.



determine if any part of the Stone bequest could be used for the Carnegie building. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which also had an interest in the estate, announced that it would take steps to acquire the fund for its own uses if the proposed action were approved. No solution to this problem has yet been found, nor has the money become available for use by the town for library purposes.

The plans as accepted by the committee resulted in the erection of a substantial library building, made of brick with stone trim, and following the same general style that was adopted, at about the same time, by many other towns throughout the country that had accepted similar benefactions. The basement of the library houses the Ashland Historical Society. Under the will of Nellie G. Woodbury, the library in 1936 received a bequest of \$500, the income to be used for the purchase of books.<sup>193</sup>

## THE FIRST CHURCH IN ASHLAND

The first organized religious activity within the present limits of the town is recorded in 1818, when five or six children were meeting as a Sunday School at the home of Miss Martha Homer, the teacher. Later, as the number of children in the school increased, the meetings were held in the Valentine house, now known as the Green Meadow Farm. This little group continued to hold its meetings until 1828.

In that year, largely through the coöperation of the local mill owners, there was erected in Unionville a small frame building, which stood where the Ashland town hall was built at a later date. The lower floor of this building was devoted to educational purposes. In the hall above, called Chapel Hall, the first religious services were held. Invitations were extended to ministers in the nearby towns to come to Unionville and take charge of the meetings, and on April 3, 1834, which was Fast Day, the congregation held a special business session and voted to maintain a resident minister for three months.

A brief summary of these early days in the religious history of the community is set forth on the first page of the contemporary record of the Unionville Evangelical Society. The record reads:

The Unionville Evangelical Society was formed and organized February 17, 1835, by Matthew Metcalf, Esqr., a Justice of the peace for the County of Middlesex and resident of Hopkinton or Union Village. Preaching was first commenced in April, 1834, by James McIntire of the Senior Class in the Andover Theological Seminary, Massachusetts. He was invited to his Labor of Love, by the united request of individuals residing in the East part of Hopkin-

ton, and South part of Framingham; which now compose the village of Unionville.

On December 11, 1834, the inhabitants of the village met to draw up and sign the first articles of agreement, at which time the organization was given the name of the Hollis Evangelical Society. The reason for selecting this title is not now clear, but it seems probable that Hollis was being considered as the name of the new community. This plan, if indeed it ever existed, was short lived, as the name does not again appear.

The original agreement follows:

Be it remembered that on the eleventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four it is agreed by and between the subscribers inhabitants of Hopkinton, Framingham and Holliston in the county of Middlesex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts to form themselves together with such other persons as may hereafter associate with them, and their successors, into a Religious Society, to be known by the name of the Hollis Evangelical Society, with all the privileges, powers and immunities, and subject to all the liabilities, and requirements, which parishes not territorial now have, or are subjected to, or may hereafter have or be subjected to by the general laws of this Commonwealth.<sup>194</sup>

The first name selected for the new organization does not appear in the records of the formal organization meeting of February 17, 1835.

After the organization of the Society, Calvin Shepard was chosen Moderator and proceeded to the business of the Society & chose for Prudential Committee the present year Calvin Shepard, James Jackson and Josiah Cloyes, Jr. 2d: Chose Calvin Shepard for treasurer; 3d: Chose Arthur F. Rockwood Collector; 4th: voted that all future meetings be notified by posting on or near the outer door of the Union Chapel and at the Unionville Rail Road House—said notices to be posted so as to stand posted two Sabbaths or over two Sabbaths previous to meeting of said Society...<sup>195</sup>

Prior to this second meeting of the Evangelical Society, there was held, on January 21, 1835, at the home of John Stone, a council of ministers from 10 neighboring towns, together with the laymen resident in Unionville who were interested in the establishment of the new church. At this session was founded the Orthodox Congregational Church of Unionville.<sup>196</sup> Thus there were two distinct group organizations, the Church and the Evangelical Society, as was customary in

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194. Records of Unionville Evangelical Society, I, 1.

195. *Ibid.*, p. 5.

196. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

churches of congregational polity at that time, composed for the most part of the same individuals, and with a common end in view. These organizations continued to exist as separate entities, representing respectively the Church and the Society, until the incorporation of the First Church in 1889, when the church took over the buildings and property of the Evangelical Society, which society then ceased to exist.

When the church was organized it was called the Unionville Evangelical Society. Later, when the town was incorporated, it was proposed to change the name to that of the Ashland Evangelical Society, but instead the title adopted was First Church in Ashland.

Invited to come to Unionville as the first pastor was James McIntire, a divinity student. Mr. McIntire accepted this invitation and was ordained in Chapel Hall on January 21, 1835. On March 3, 1835, the Evangelical Society elected a committee to consider the problem of building a meetinghouse. At the same meeting it was agreed to fix the salary of the Reverend Mr. McIntire at \$550 per annum "for compensation and support," with the privilege of four weeks each year to visit friends or "recruit in health."<sup>197</sup>

The meetinghouse committee on March 9th returned a report which suggested that the proposed church be constructed along the lines of the Baptist Church in Westboro, and that two acres of land opposite Union Chapel be purchased of John Stone. This report was accepted. A new committee was then set up, in order to raise the money necessary for building the meetinghouse.<sup>198</sup>

The sale of pews by auction was authorized by the Evangelical Society on December 28, 1835.<sup>199</sup> Some of the original pew deeds given by the society as a consequence of this vote are preserved in the collection of the Ashland Historical Society. The method employed in making these sales is interesting. The auctioneer would first announce the "assessed value" of a pew, at which figure the bidding would start. The higher-priced locations were first disposed of, and when no starting bid could be obtained at the stated "value," pews of lesser assessment were offered until, at the last, the rear and side locations were sold off for whatever they might bring.

Shortly after the completion of the meetinghouse the society decided to lease a part of the land in the rear of the church so that those who wished could build sheds for their teams. These sheds remained standing until 1922.<sup>200</sup>

The church had hardly achieved the dignity of having a meetinghouse in which to worship than a considerable number of the congre-

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197. *Ibid.*, p. 7.

198. *Ibid.*, pp. 7, 8.

199. *Ibid.*, p. 12.

200. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

gation, who had attended the meetings but had not joined the society, became convinced that the dogma and practice of the Congregational form of faith was incompatible with their own convictions. Many of these withdrew from the congregation, formed the Baptist Church, and shortly thereafter erected a church building of their own.

These early days were difficult ones for the Congregationalists. There was little money available, and even the meagre salary offered to the ministers was not always forthcoming. By 1846 Rev. Joseph Haven found the situation such that he was unwilling to continue his ministry, and asked to be relieved of his pastorate. The conditions at the time are well reflected in the record of the meeting of the council, held on December 16, 1846, to take action on his resignation:

We are exceedingly happy in finding a fond attachment on the part of the people, toward their pastor, and a disposition to devolve the responsibility of dissolving this connection upon the Pastor himself. But it appears, on enquiry, that Mr. Haven, during the whole of his ministry, has been subjected to many embarrassments, from a failure on the part of the people to pay his salary at the times of its becoming due, and that the evil, so far from being remedied, has continued to increase. We are much influenced in this decision, by a regard to what appears to us, at the present day, to be a great delinquency on the part of even nominal christians, in fulfilling their pecuniary obligations, both to the ministry, and to one another. A pastor's efforts to inculcate the principles of honesty and integrity, are thus paralyzed. And we seek to secure the permanency of the ministry, by urging the people to punctual payments, enabling their pastors to remain permanently with them.<sup>201</sup>

There have been four bells in the meetinghouse. The origin of the first of these bells is not recorded in the minutes of the Evangelical Society, but on June 5, 1837, it was voted:

On the subject of changing Bell on the Meeting House to choose a committee of three individuals and invest them with discretionary power to change the bell and increase the weight to an amount not exceeding 400 lb., to be paid for by voluntary subscription.

It seems probable that this proposed bell was secured and hung, for in 1839 another bell was obtained which weighed 1445 pounds.<sup>202</sup> The 1839 bell served the meetinghouse until 1885, when the present bell was installed. This was paid for, in part, by funds raised by the presentation in the town hall of a dramatic entertainment entitled "The

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201. *Ibid.*, no page number.

202. *Ibid.*, p. 35.



Tyrolian Queen." Additional money was raised by private subscription. The name of the play, "Tyrolian Queen," is cast upon the bell, which weighs 2573 pounds.<sup>203</sup>

The interior of the church has been extensively altered three times. The first of these changes was in the summer of 1853. The society voted to replace the old straight pews with circular ones, but this was not done at the time. This proposal, however, called attention to the need for other changes, and the gallery was lowered, a recess was constructed for the pulpit, and the entry was made narrower so that there would be room for additional pews. At the same time a chimney, since demolished in 1930, was constructed. An early plan of the church, after these changes had been completed, shows aisles in the center and on the two sides, with fourteen rows of pews divided into four sections in the main body of the auditorium, and six short pews on each side facing the pulpit, and at right angles to the others. The interior walls were papered, and the inside of the pews was painted green. About this time the first pipe organ was installed.<sup>204</sup> Prior to this time the music had been supplied by a double bass viol, purchased in 1846.<sup>205</sup>

In 1889 the second change in the arrangement of the interior took place, when circular pews were installed to replace the straight ones; the platform in the front of the auditorium was raised, and the location of the organ was changed.<sup>206</sup>

The third change in the interior of the church was made in 1913, when the memorial chancel, altar and sanctuary were given by the Ladies' Social Union. Included also were the sanctuary pews, from the Phi Delta Class of young ladies, and a new pulpit and lectern, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lamert Walkup in memory of Henry Lamert Walkup. Largely through the generosity of Henry E. Warren, the old organ was replaced by a Hammond electric organ. Appropriate rededication exercises were held on April 4, 1937.

Other changes were made from time to time. A chapel was built in the rear of the church in 1869. This was in use until the formation of the Federated Church, in 1919, when it was torn down, as the building of the Baptist Society then became available for use by the Sunday School and affiliated organizations. In 1874 the basement of the church was finished off and a kitchen was installed.<sup>207</sup>

Money was appropriated in 1867 to erect a parsonage, but this project was never carried through to completion. Nor was the vote of the society in 1868 to erect a tower on one corner of the church building ever put into effect.<sup>208</sup>

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203. *Ibid.*, II, 14, 15.

204. Records of the First Parish, I.

205. Records of Unionville Evangelical Society, I, 52.

206. Records of the First Parish, I.

207. *Ibid.*

208. *Ibid.*

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of the Baptist denomination in Ashland begins on the evening of December 30, 1841, when Rev. Mr. Haynes, the pastor of the Baptist Church in Southborough, came to the village of Unionville and preached to a gathering assembled in the house of William Wait. The Rev. Mr. Haynes frequently returned to Unionville to conduct services and Rev. Charles Train of Framingham was an occasional visitor.

These early meetings, however, followed no scheduled plan, and at the time no local Baptist society was organized. On January 6, 1842, a series of prayer meetings was instituted, and these were continued for some time. The following year divinity students from the Newton Theological Seminary held meetings from time to time in the hall of the hotel. By the summer of 1842 plans were well advanced for the organization of a local church.<sup>209</sup>

As was the case with the Unionville Evangelical Society and the Unionville Evangelical Church, the two interlocking organizations of the Congregational denomination, the Baptists set up a Society and a Church, the former being concerned with the business interests of the parish, the latter devoting itself to matters spiritual rather than temporal.

On November 8, 1843, in response to an invitation extended by the Baptist people in Unionville, an ecclesiastical council was convened, with representation from Framingham, Southborough, Worcester, Grafton and Medway. The council voted:

That in our deliberate judgement we regard it for the advancement of God's Truth and the honor of his kingdom to proceed to constitute a Baptist Church in this place under the name of the Unionville Baptist Church.

A few days after the organization of the church, on November 20, 1843, there was held a meeting of the group in order to establish the Unionville Baptist Society.<sup>210</sup> The first meetings were held in Barber's Hall, on Front Street, in a small building, since removed.<sup>211</sup> In the fall of 1844 a committee was appointed to formulate plans for the construction of a chapel "40 feet long, 32 feet wide, with a height of 12, 14, or 16 feet, furnished outside and inside except the slips."<sup>212</sup> The estimated cost of this proposed structure was \$900, but "other gentlemen they thought it might be built for about \$800."<sup>213</sup> The business of raising money was started immediately, and within a few days the sum of \$545 had been

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209. Baptist Church Records, no page number.

210. *Ibid.*, I, 1.

211. *Ibid.*, p. 5.

212. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

213. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

subscribed.<sup>214</sup> On October 7, 1844, it was voted "to place the Chapel between Lewis Broad's and Dea. Seaver's on the north side of the road where the celler is begun."<sup>215</sup> It seems probable from this entry that the society took advantage of foundation work which was already started, although for what purpose this "celler" was dug originally, or by whom, does not appear. The construction work on this little building was sufficiently advanced to enable the society to hold a business meeting in it on the first day of March 1845, and the finished chapel was dedicated on the 20th of the same month.<sup>216</sup>

In 1844, the year following the organization of the Unionville Baptist Church, Rev. Zenas P. Wild was invited to become its first pastor. Mr. Wild was first hired at a flat rate of three dollars per Sabbath, but when it became apparent that he and the congregation were mutually satisfactory, he was given \$300 a year.<sup>217</sup> The Rev. Mr. Wild stayed with this church for only one year. Thereafter there followed many years of struggle to keep a resident pastor in the pulpit. Terms of the pastorates during this period were invariably short, and it rarely happened that one minister followed another without some break in the continuity of service. During these interludes when the church was without a regularly established minister, the pulpit was filled, for the most part, by clergymen who volunteered their services.

On April 30, 1846, after the incorporation of the town, the name of the church was changed to Ashland Baptist Church.<sup>218</sup> In 1848 the society voted to appropriate money to secure a bell, and subsequently one weighing 1626 pounds was purchased and hung.<sup>219</sup> This was later placed in the belfry of the second meetinghouse.

By the beginning of 1849 the chapel was not large enough to accommodate the growing congregation, and on July 4th of that year the society voted to build an adequate meetinghouse and appointed a building committee.<sup>220</sup> Then followed a long series of meetings in order to decide where the new meetinghouse should stand, but finally land was secured on Summer Street, and in August 1849, construction work was commenced.<sup>221</sup>

The second meetinghouse, which followed the traditional lines of approved colonial church architecture, with porch and columns in front, rose rapidly. On March 3, 1850, the first Sabbath meeting was

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214. *Ibid.*, p. 20.

215. *Ibid.*, p. 22.

216. *Ibid.*, p. 33; *Baptist Church Register*, p. 194.

217. *Baptist Society Records*, I, 29.

218. *Baptist Church Register*, p. 194.

219. *Baptist Society Records*, I, 88, 93.

220. *Ibid.*, p. 118.

221. *Ibid.*, pp. 121 et seq.

held in the vestry,<sup>222</sup> and on April 10, 1850, the new church was dedicated.<sup>223</sup>

Three years after the completion of the new meetinghouse the society purchased a pipe organ. Later a lot of land in the rear of the property was bequeathed to the church by Albert Leland, who had been one of the deacons, and on this land the society erected a parsonage.<sup>224</sup>

On the 29th of December 1900, the second meetinghouse of the Ashland Baptist Church was burned to the ground. Nothing remained of any value except the melted bell metal. Both the Congregational and Methodist Churches immediately offered the use of their respective places of worship. The Sunday morning after the conflagration saw the Baptists worshipping in the Methodist Church; the following Sabbath they gathered in the G. A. R. Hall. After this, the society rented the hall in the Enslin Block at the corner of Main and Summer Streets, where the Ashland post office was built in 1940. Sunday meetings were held in these quarters while the third church building was being constructed.<sup>225</sup>

Plans were immediately inaugurated to make possible the erection of a new church. The old colonial motif was discarded, and approval was given for a modern structure which followed the "McKinley" style of architecture, which was much in favor for church buildings at the time. This church, built on the site of the second meetinghouse, was dedicated on April 9, 1903.

In 1919, when the United States was at war, the shortage of fuel, together with other considerations, brought about a beginning of union church services, held in the Congregational Church. In these services the members of the three Protestant denominations participated. This plan proved so successful that Rev. Eugene D. Dolloff, then pastor of the Ashland Baptist Church, recommended the formation of the Ashland Federated Church. Mr. Dolloff continued his services as the minister of the new organization. Since this reorganization the church building on Summer Street has been used for social functions, and for the meetings of the Sunday School, the Christian Endeavor Society, and other affiliated organizations.<sup>226</sup>

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The history of the Ashland Methodist Episcopal Church begins in July, 1850, when Rev. T. Willard Lewis, then the pastor of the church in Hopkinton, organized a "class" of nine persons. Meetings thereafter

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222. Baptist Church Register, p. 194.

223. *Ibid.*

224. *The Federated Church, Historical Account.*

225. Baptist Church Records.

226. *The Federated Church, Historical Account.*



appear to have been held regularly, and in 1852 plans were made to inaugurate services in Chapel Hall. The proposal by the Methodists to hold regular Sunday services in the village aroused a considerable amount of active opposition on the part of many citizens, and for a time it was uncertain whether the use of the hall would be granted to them. According to the church records,

When the time and the preacher arrived at Chapel Hall however, it was found that hostile parties had nailed up the door so that entrance was impossible until someone effected an entrance through a window and removing the barricade let in the waiting congregation.<sup>227</sup>

The following year, on April 4, 1853, Ashland voted that the use of Chapel Hall be granted to the Methodist Society for religious worship on the Sabbath, when not used for schools, and that the Selectmen may agree with them, as to the care of the Hall & the amount of rent for the same for the present year.

Despite this, opposition continued, and the Methodists abandoned the Chapel Hall plan and instead held services in various private homes. Ministers from near-by towns came to Ashland to conduct the preaching services.

In 1868, the New England Conference expressed its approval of the establishment of a local church, and Rev. George W. Mansfield was appointed to come to Ashland and organize it. Mr. Mansfield preached his first sermon here in the Congregational Church on April 5th of that year, the use of the church having been offered for that purpose by the Congregational society. On April 28, 1868, the Ashland church was organized by Rev. Dr. Lorenzo R. Thayer, presiding elder of the Boston district.

Steps were taken immediately to assure the erection of a church building. On July 15th a building committee was appointed.<sup>228</sup> Mr. Charles Alden presented to the church a substantial lot of land at the corner of Alden Street and Church Avenue,<sup>229</sup> and on August 3, 1868, the corner-stone of the new church was laid with impressive ceremonies by the North Star Lodge of Masons. On March 3, 1869, the edifice was dedicated. Dr. Henry W. Warren, later bishop, preached the dedicatory sermon. A description of the new church, printed in the *Boston Evening Transcript* at the time, says in part:

The house is of wood, about 70 by 45 feet, of Gothic style, finished into the roof with trellis work, and very tastefully painted and frescoed . . . The pews, pulpit and

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227. Ashland Methodist Episcopal Church, *Historical Record*.

228. *Ibid*.

229. *The Federated Church, Historical Account*.

surroundings, orchestra front, and organ case, are finished in chestnut with black walnut trimmings. The windows are of beautiful colored glass . . . There are three vestries . . . and a small anteroom to be used as a kitchen on social occasions. The house is carpeted throughout, and lighted with gas. The orchestra is furnished with one of W. A. Johnson's superior organs, having twenty-five stops. The spire is on the corner of the church, about 90 feet high, and ornamented by one of Howard's best clocks and a bell of equal merit. The house, all complete, has cost \$16,000.

For many years the clock in the steeple was maintained at the expense of the town. Overlooking the railroad right-of-way, it was long a local tradition that the Boston & Albany Railroad ran its entire system on "Ashland time." Little did the originators of this pleasantry suspect that years after church, clock and steeple had disappeared, Ashland time would become standard for the greater part of the civilized world.

In 1919 the church became affiliated with the Ashland Federated Church. The church building on Alden Street was used from time to time for society and local conference and board meetings, but in 1924 it was demolished.

## THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

The organization meeting of the First Universalist Society in Ashland was held on May 13, 1871, in the hall in the old Adams Block at the corner of Railroad and Alden Streets. The society elected a parish committee, a clerk, and a treasurer.

George Proctor was called to Ashland to be the first minister of the new church, but remained in the parish only for a few months. The second minister was Rev. Anson Litus, Jr., who stayed until early in 1873. Thereafter, until the society was dissolved, later in the year, the pulpit was occupied by students supplied by Tufts College.

No detailed records of this church are available. The membership, from the beginning, was extremely limited, and when the organization was disbanded in 1873 there were very few Universalist families remaining in Ashland.

During its brief existence the church held meetings in the hall in the Adams Block where the organization had been effected. A choir was employed for the regular services, but there were apparently no auxiliary organizations connected with the parish.<sup>230</sup>

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230. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

## ST. CECILIA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Cecilia's Church was dedicated in 1883, but the history of Roman Catholicism in Ashland dates back to 1858. On December 20th of that year, Rev. Peter Cuddihy of the Milford parish celebrated Mass in the auditorium of the town hall. Thereafter Father Cuddihy visited the town at infrequent intervals. Six or eight services were held each year while the town remained in Father Cuddihy's jurisdiction.

In 1866 the diocesan authorities in Boston set up a new parish consisting of Hopkinton, Cordaville, Westborough and Ashland. Rev. Thomas Barry was appointed priest in charge, and took over from Father Cuddihy the spiritual leadership of the Catholic population in Ashland. Father Barry remained with the parish until 1870, and visited the town regularly to say Mass once each month.

The Hopkinton parish was set off from Ashland in 1872, and the town became a part of the South Framingham parish, with Rev. John P. Ryan in charge. To Father Ryan goes the honor of establishing the church in Ashland. This was in 1874, when the Ashland Mission was formally instituted. Services continued to be held in the town hall.

In 1883, the diocese appointed Rev. Michael F. Delaney to the Mission in Ashland. Father Delaney immediately took steps to assure a permanent place of worship in the town. The property on Esty Street was purchased, and building operations went forward rapidly. This building was completed and furnished late in the same year, and on December 16, 1883, it was dedicated to St. Cecilia.

Following Father Delaney's pastorate came Rev. John F. Heffernan, under whose direction the parochial residence was built. The church suffered a serious fire on the evening of October 23, 1892, which destroyed the sacristy and contents, and for a time threatened the entire building. Although the main church was saved, the heat inside was so intense that the fittings of the altar were completely melted.<sup>231</sup>

## ASHLAND FEDERATED CHURCH

In 1919, for reasons of economy, the Congregational, Baptist and Methodist Churches agreed to merge. The *Directory and Year Book* issued by the Federated Church in 1934 sets forth the conditions which were responsible for this change:

In 1916 the Great War was on and the following spring the United States entered the strife and soon matters began to press on everyone and everything. Soon the

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231. Information secured from Msgr. Lord of St. John's Seminary, Brighton, and from the Chancery of the Archdiocese, Boston.

churches began to feel the pressure of the Public Safety Committee. Coal could not be obtained so we were instructed to unite the churches in such a way that only one building would have to be used at a time. The plan was carried out for a time, then the Congregational pastor, Rev. R. E. Bayes, decided to enter the service of the Y.M.C.A. and in July, 1919, it was voted to accept his resignation. Soon after this, on September 1, 1919, the Congregationalists and Methodists received an invitation from the Baptist Church to use their meeting house, as they had fuel and a minister. The two invited churches accepted the invitation, and this was the first move that led to the "Federated Church of Ashland," which included the Congregational, Baptist and Methodist Episcopal Churches. On March 25, 1919, the churches voted to federate and adopted and ratified the Articles of Federation under which we have labored.

Rev. Eugene D. Dolloff, being pastor of the Baptist Church at the time of our Federation, was established as our first pastor. He was followed by Rev. Howard F. Legg, Ora A. Price, Laurence H. Blackburn, Mark B. Strickland and Matthew A. Vance.

The Federation brought all the church people of the community into such close fellowship that the questions that had separated them have been nearly obliterated, and in another decade will be merged, and the different denominations forgotten, except by a few older members.<sup>232</sup>

For the first few years following this merger the church held its meetings in the Baptist edifice. Later it transferred the Sunday morning services to the First Church, but has continued to make use of the Baptist Church for other activities connected with the parish. Section one of article five of the agreement entered into by the three churches reads:

Each church shall continue unchanged its relation to the denominational body to which it belongs, reporting its work as a member of the Federated Church.<sup>233</sup>

## TRANSPORTATION

The town had no adequate transportation facilities until 1834, when the Boston and Worcester Railroad established a line which ran through the Center. This corporation had received its charter from the General Court in 1831.<sup>234</sup> At the time the branch line was built to what was then Unionville, there were but 12 or 15 houses in sight from the station, among them the town's only hotel.

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232. Ashland Federated Church, *Directory and Year Book*, no page number.

233. *Ibid.*

234. *Acts*, 1831, ch. 72.



The arrival of the first train in Unionville, on September 20, 1834, was marked by elaborate ceremony. Among the speakers were Governor Davis and Daniel Webster, and more than 300 persons enjoyed a "collation" at landlord Stone's new hotel.<sup>235</sup>

The advent of the railroad gave new impetus to business and construction, and houses and mercantile establishments sprang up in the vicinity of the "depot" almost over night. Local train service continued to be in hands of the Boston and Worcester until May, 1867, when the union of that line with the Western Railroad Corporation resulted in the formation of the Boston and Albany Railroad.<sup>236</sup>

On April 19, 1854, the General Court granted a charter to the Hopkinton Branch Railroad Company, known subsequently as Hopkinton Branch Railroad Number One, to construct and maintain a right of way from the center village of Hopkinton to the tracks of the Boston and Worcester at Cordaville.<sup>237</sup> This line got no further than the promotion stage.

A second company, called the Hopkinton Branch Railroad Company, and known as Number Two, was incorporated on May 26, 1869, two years after the Boston and Albany had been organized. This road was given authorization not greatly dissimilar from that which the General Court had granted to the first Hopkinton Railroad in 1854. Railroad expansion was going on all through the state, and the prospect of a more or less local railroad appealed to the thrifty farmers and other residents of Ashland. Despite the stress on Hopkinton in the act of incorporation, the promoters of the line looked to Ashland for a very large proportion of ready cash, and an enormous amount, for the place and times, was invested by local citizens.

In 1867 another short line, known as the Hopkinton and Milford Railroad Company, received its charter.<sup>238</sup> This road was consolidated with the Hopkinton Branch Railroad Company Number Two by an act of the General Court passed on June 1, 1870.<sup>239</sup> The word "Branch" was dropped from the old corporate name, and the new company was known as the Hopkinton Railroad Company.<sup>240</sup> This time the town of Ashland was not ignored in the charter, and both the town and individual residents were invited to add more money to that which had been paid for shares in the earlier corporation.<sup>241</sup>

The road soon ran into difficulties and early in 1872 was authorized

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235. "A Stockholder," in *Mercantile Journal*, in the Collections of the Ashland Historical Society. The date and place of publication are missing.

236. *Acts*, 1867, ch. 270.

237. *Ibid.*, 1854, ch. 337.

238. *Ibid.*, 1867, ch. 225.

239. *Ibid.*, 1870, ch. 299.

240. *Ibid.*

241. *Ibid.*

to mortgage its property.<sup>242</sup> In 1887 the entire system, such as it was, was leased to the New York and New England Railroad during the latter part of 1887. The company after a few years failed and finally was taken over by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.<sup>243</sup> Still visible through the Ashland lowlands is the old right of way, long abandoned, beside which the local railroad ran. The rails have been taken up, and the bridges which were erected are falling into ruin.

In May, 1893, the General Court gave to the Natick Street Railway authorization to extend its line to and through Ashland, subject to whatever restrictions might be imposed by the selectmen.<sup>244</sup> This involved no outstanding investment on the part of the Ashland residents, and the Natick line, later called the South Middlesex Street Railway Company, laid down new trackage which connected Ashland with Sherborn, Natick and Framingham. Before the end of 1893 much of this new service was available. The Ashland line ran through the center of the village, through Summer Street, and continued along what is now Route 135. This line prospered for some years, after which the competition of the automobile brought its activities to a close. In 1920 the last car was run over the Ashland route and the tracks were taken up. Today bus and truck transportation has largely replaced both railroad and street car service.<sup>245</sup>

## EARLY MILLS

The decline of the mills making use of water power in Ashland reflects the changing conditions of the industrial age, for the history of the early settlement and the later town embraces the eras which saw the development and decline of water power, steam power, and the rise of electrification. At one time there were no less than nine water power units of various types and sizes within the present bounds of the town. Today not one remains.

In addition to these larger dams, there were small, seasonable developments, where the spring freshets provided enough power to operate small open-air mills. The remains of the old dams still may be seen, although in most cases the small streams have either disappeared entirely or have been diverted to other channels. A few hundred yards south of the transformer station in Ashland village, on the easterly side of Route 135, may still be seen the remains of one of these small dams.

On Indian Brook there was one, and possibly two, saw mills. One

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242. *Acts*, 1872, ch. 170; see also *Acts* of 1873, ch. 119.

243. Information supplied by Mr. Fernald, counsel for the Boston & Albany Railroad, 1941.

244. *Acts*, 1893, ch. 346.

245. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

of these, which was known as Wilson's Mill, was on land which is now covered by the waters of the Hopkinton reservoir. On Cold Spring Brook, within the present bounds of Ashland, three mills once flourished. Two of these were owned by members of the Haven family, one by the Eames family.<sup>246</sup> This last mill site is now submerged by Metropolitan Reservoir No. 4. These were saw and grist mills.

Following the Sudbury River downstream, the first mill along its banks was located at a point about one-half mile below the present village of Cordaville, where there is a 30-foot head of water. Here, as early as 1745, a forge and grist mill were in existence. These were owned by Andrew Newton. Slight traces of iron found in the neighborhood had encouraged the smelting of this metal, and the place became known as the "Old Forge." Andrew Newton, Jr., inherited the property and continued to carry on the business until his death in 1792. During the Revolution various iron articles for military use were made here, including, according to tradition, several cannon.<sup>247</sup> An article in the warrant for the town meeting held in Framingham on April 6, 1795, concerning this plant, reads:

"To look into the matter respecting the forge known by the name of the Andrew Newton Forge, and act anything relative thereto."

At that meeting the town voted to choose a committee of three to dispose of its interest in the "Andrew Newton Forge" and "privilege thereof." Later, the dam was rebuilt and the forge resumed operations under the ownership of William Ward. Now the place is in ruins and all but forgotten.

Next downstream, just below Indian Brook, is the site of the Bigelow Paper Mill. The land adjoining the mill south of the river was originally held by Stephen Jennings, whose great-grandsons, David and Dexter Bigelow, built the mill in 1817. The land on the north side of the river belonged to George Stimpson, who lived by the bridge where Howe Street now crosses the river. About 1790 Stimpson removed to New York. During the years when the paper mill flourished the owners erected two palatial homes for themselves, set off from the mill by spacious lawns and shrubbery. For the mill hands they built a row of houses extending down the river. Thus the Bigelow plant was the center of an active little settlement, complete with mill, homes, and store facilities.<sup>248</sup> Today one of the two residences constructed by the Bigelows stands near the corner of Oak and Winter Streets. Of this once extensive development nothing else remains.

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<sup>246.</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>247.</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>248.</sup> *Ibid.*

Next downstream was the "privilege" at the center of the village, not to be confused with the one at the mouth of Cold Spring Brook. In 1734 the first Colonel John Jones, son-in-law of Savil Simpson, here built a grist mill. Later he added a saw mill and a fulling mill.<sup>249</sup> Being the first ambitious institutions of this sort, they became a center around which the business and mercantile interests of the early village grouped themselves, and the focus of communal life. In this part of the town the churches, the town hall, the early hotel, and other public buildings were erected.

About 1795 Colonel John Jones, son of the founder of like name and title, sold the mill property and after passing through various hands it came into the possession of James Jackson, through whose influence the village of Unionville took on new impetus. Jackson sold the property in 1852, and about 15 years later it came into the possession of the Dwight Print Company. This was a company launched in 1868, and was, up to that time, the most ambitious undertaking in the history of Ashland. Construction was started on a whole series of factory buildings, together with storehouses, blocks of houses for the workers, and retail stores. This enterprise, which was organized for cotton printing, brought an enormous amount of outside money into the town, and started a building boom which collapsed when it was discovered, belatedly, that the dyestuffs would pollute the water of the river. In consequence the entire project was abandoned. It is probable that this enterprise would have succeeded and brought a lasting prosperity to Ashland if the problem of water pollution had not arisen. The whole matter was brought to an unfortunate conclusion by the action of the City of Boston, which here began the development of the enlarged Metropolitan water supply system, an enterprise for which Ashland has paid dearly. Although the original plans had to be discarded, part of the extensive plant here erected still remains.<sup>250</sup> A very considerable portion of the main manufacturing building, however, was destroyed by fire on the morning of January 10, 1922, at which time it was being used by the Ashland Mills of the Angier Corporation. The unsightly ruins of this fire have been allowed to remain standing, detracting from the otherwise pleasing appearance of Ashland's main street.

The first company to lease a part of the print works after the abandonment of that project was the Warren Thread Company, which in 1880 took over the mill building, the engine house, the boiler house, coal house, and steam plant, together with the machine shop, in all comprising a substantial part of the entire property. This company manufactured cotton thread. Starting business on a small scale, the Warren

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249. *Ibid.*

250. *Ibid.*



Thread Company gradually increased its output, until in 1900 the concern passed into the hands of the American Thread Company. More than 80 people were employed by the Warren Company at this time. The American Thread Company soon discontinued use of the Ashland plant, removing the equipment to Connecticut.<sup>251</sup>

Below this group of early mills, about a quarter of a mile down the river, just above the railroad bridge, is the site of the first water power development within the present bounds of Ashland. Here, on November 14, 1706, Savil Simpson "of Boston" bought of Joseph Buckminster six acres of land, "across the river from his house."<sup>252</sup> The following year Simpson put in a corn mill and a saw mill; a year or two later he added a fulling mill. These mills were about eight rods above the railroad bridge, and above the mouth of Cold Spring Brook.<sup>253</sup>

On July 20, 1709, John Howe bought 20 acres of land from Joseph Buckminster. This property was located opposite the junction of Cold Spring Brook and Sudbury River. In 1711 Howe built a dam below the mouth of the brook, thus flooding the lowlands along the brook and the Savil Simpson privilege as well. Simpson, of course, protested, and the following year on April 1, 1712, Howe bought Simpson's six acres, including the mills, and moved the latter down stream to his new mill site.<sup>254</sup> These mills stood just to the south of the easterly bridge on Route 135. The remains of the ancient millrace still may be clearly distinguished.

The removal of the mills and erection of this dam brought renewed destruction to other Simpson holdings along Cold Spring Brook. In 1715 Simpson sued Howe for overflowing his meadow, thus spoiling the crop on three pieces of meadow containing ten or eleven acres, which produced about ten loads of hay yearly, and also injured the bridge and causeway leading from Simpson's farm to the country road leading to Sherborn.<sup>255</sup> Simpson won his suit and Howe petitioned the General Court for redress. In the end the mill privilege was given up, not to be reopened for many years, and Howe removed to Hopkinton. The mill he disposed of to his son-in-law, Jacob Gibbs, who owned it until 1740, and possibly a few years later. Shortly after the Revolution, Colonel John Jones acquired the property and leased 25 acres on both sides of the river to Captain Gilbert Dench, who, with his son, Isaac, rebuilt the dam in the winter of 1779, and put in a saw mill and grist mill. Here Isaac Dench carried on a large business. His son, also named Isaac, continued to enlarge it. This second Isaac Dench

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251. *Ibid.*

252. Middlesex County Land Records, XIV, 559.

253. Temple, *op. cit.*, p. 16.

254. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

255. Temple, *op. cit.*, p. 12.

built the house known as the Shepard and Alden place, which he sold in 1814 to Colonel Jones. Isaac, Jr., and his son Gilbert Dench also constructed a small shop on Stone's mill dam, called the Dench privilege, where they manufactured wheel hubs. In 1779, when the Denches, father and son, started to redevelop the power right, they were associated with Jesse Lovering, who held a half interest in the project. In 1798 the heirs of Colonel Jones executed a free title deed in favor of Dench, who held the property until 1828, when it was bought by Major Calvin Shepard, who erected a paper mill there. In 1856 this property was purchased by Charles Alden for an emery mill.<sup>256</sup> This mill continued to operate until the Metropolitan water system took over the stream at this point.

The Shepard mill neighborhood was long the home of the Parkhurst family, whose most illustrious member was Rev. Charles Parkhurst, pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. In 1790 Ephriam Parkhurst purchased a piece of land lying northeast of Shepard's mill, where he built the Parkhurst homestead. His son, Charles F. W. Parkhurst, born here in 1808, was a teacher in the local district schools, a member of the school committee, and town clerk of Ashland. His son, Charles, born in 1842, was the famous anti-Tammany clergyman.<sup>257</sup>

On the easterly border of the town, as the Sudbury River leaves Ashland, once stood the Cutler mill, which was one of the outstanding developments in the town. It has long since disappeared, and the site is now covered by the waters of Reservoir No. 2. As early as 1747 Ebenezer Marshall had a blacksmith shop on the banks of the river here. On February 20, 1748, he bought of Joseph Haven the land adjoining, with the right to use the water for the purposes of his trade, and soon after put in a forge and trip hammer, manufacturing axes, scythes, hoes, and a variety of other small farm implements. Marshall also kept a tavern at Parks Corner, near by. He was an important personage in the town, a member of the board of selectmen, and an ardent patriot during the Revolution. In 1816 his son-in-law, Richard Sears, built a saw mill which he sold to Calvin Bigelow. The new owner added a grist mill, and in 1824 sold the entire property to James Whitmore. From Whitmore this passed to William Greenwood in 1833, and five years later Simeon N. Cutler of Holliston bought the privilege, enlarged the facilities, and added steam power. Here, with his sons, he established a large grain business. This milling enterprise expanded rapidly, and by 1847 had established a wide reputation. In the course of time the Cutlers erected the first grain elevator to be built east of the

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256. *Ibid.*, p. 13.

257. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

Hudson River. Here also was used the first cast-iron machinery ever installed in place of the early wooden equipment generally used. Cast-iron gears were also added to the water wheels, this probably being one of the earliest of such installations. The Cutler mill continued to be operated up to the time that the City of Boston took over the Sudbury River to form a water basin, and was, during the long years of its existence, the outstanding business development in the town. The firm is still in existence, with branches throughout Massachusetts, but the old Cutler mill in Ashland is almost forgotten.<sup>258</sup>

## INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

When the elaborate plans of the Dwight Print Company fell through about 1870 and the Warren Thread Company closed its doors in 1900, it seemed likely that Ashland would become little more than a residence for persons working in Framingham. But the stamp placed on the community by Savil Simpson's mill was not to be effaced so easily.

The resurgence of industry in Ashland begins with the purchase in 1905 of certain Dwight Print buildings at the north end of Main Street by the Lombard Governor Company. This had been formed in Roxbury in 1901 for the purpose of manufacturing speed controlling devices and hydraulic apparatus. The founder was Nathaniel Lombard, who had secured patents on several types of governors used on water wheels. During the World War the company added to its products hydraulic lathes for the production of shells, and did important experimental work on gunfire control apparatus. When the war ended, the company turned its attention to the manufacture of Diesel engines suitable for industrial plants and boats, but competition both in this field and in the manufacture of governors for water turbines proved too keen to allow for extensive growth. In 1934 C. Sidney Shepard, the principal stockholder of the company, died, leaving the Lombard Governor plant, along with a large estate, to the national organization of the Presbyterian Church. In 1937 the common stock of the company was sold to Henry E. Warren, who had been associated with the company since 1902, and the company's name was changed to the Lombard Governor Corporation. In the few years since Mr. Warren's purchase, the number of employees has increased from 10 to 300, owing to the versatility displayed in adding new products to the Lombard line.

In 1909 William D. Moshier, who with his brother Charles had been selling tea and related products in upstate New York since 1877, secured the Balcom factory on Alden Street in Ashland, and there re-

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258. *Ibid.*



established Moshier Brothers, Incorporated. The firm specializes in the manufacture of vanilla extracts, but also produces other flavoring extracts and baking powders.

Older than either of these firms is that of Ray Brothers, established in Ashland in 1883 by Fred and Albert Ray. In that year they began to print hat labels in a large building on the south side of the Boston and Albany tracks opposite the present railroad station. When the building was destroyed by fire in 1889, the brothers built the existing shop on what was then a meadow on the north side of the tracks. The firm turned the corner financially in 1895, when it began to loan its machines for printing "hat tips" to its customers. The partnership was discontinued in 1908, and since the death of Albert Ray in 1925 no member of the Ray family is actively participating in the business.

It was in 1912 that there was started the firm which now gives Ashland its industrial importance. In that year Henry E. Warren, who had already shown inventive ability as an employee of the Lombard Governor Company, established the Warren Clock Company to manufacture clocks operated by electric batteries. These clocks required frequent adjusting and high precision manufacture, whereupon Mr. Warren conceived the idea of making clocks run from ordinary electric outlets. Two basic inventions were necessary: one, a new form of synchronous self-starting motor, and, two, an instrument for measuring and regulating the frequency of power station generators.

By 1916 Mr. Warren and T. Durmer, a mechanically minded assistant, had solved these problems. He moved his factory from the converted barn on his Chestnut Street farm, which had been his original plant, and rented space from the Lombard Governor Company. The Edison Company of Boston was the first to install a master clock to regulate its current; soon, other power companies were adding "time" to their previous services of power, heat and light. In 1922 a sales manager was added; in 1926 the name of the firm was changed to the Warren Telechron Company, and a general manager installed; in 1927 the first unit of plant No. 1 was constructed on Homer Avenue; and in 1936 plant No. 2 on Pleasant Street was acquired. Both factory units have been greatly expanded at various times. Mr. Warren's company, which employed 3 persons in 1912, 20 in 1916, 150 in 1927, now employs some 1500 persons. In 1940 they produced nearly two million units, consisting of master clocks, household clocks, synchronous timing motors, and timing devices of every conceivable kind. In 1937 Mr. Warren purchased the Lombard Governor Corporation and in 1939 became a member of the board of directors of Fenwal, Incorporated. Together, these three firms dominate the industrial life of the community.

The firm of Fenwal, Incorporated, which came to Ashland in 1938,



had its inception in 1923, when W. J. Turenne found a hole had been burned in his trousers by an uncontrolled electric iron. This set Fenwal's present vice-president thinking about a temperature indicator, and later a temperature regulator, that might prevent similar mishaps. Soon after, he patented the Fenwal Thermoswitch, and the manufacture of this device was carried on in a limited way until 1935. In that year Fenwal was incorporated, with T. L. Fenn as president and treasurer, Mr. Turenne as vice-president, and C. W. Walter as secretary. In 1938, at the suggestion of Mr. Henry E. Warren, Fenwal took occupancy of the top floor of a building formerly used by the Warren Telechron Company; since that time the number of its employees has increased from 10 to 50, and its production has tripled annually. Constant improvement in the sensitivity and durability of the Fenwal Thermoswitch has enabled this youthful firm to compete very readily with other thermostat firms, particularly in the domestic control field.

Some of the other firms in Ashland have an equally interesting history. Early in 1917 a Boston company, the U. S. Color and Chemical Company, found that it could no longer import dyestuffs from Europe, and that it was necessary to produce its own. There was practically no American dye industry, and consequently few trained technicians to handle the intricate processes. But aside from this, a site had to be found with good water and located near the textile manufacturing district of the Blackstone Valley. After a careful survey, a plant was constructed one-quarter of a mile west of the Ashland station and paralleling the main tracks of the Boston and Albany Railroad. Expansion thereafter was gradual but certain. In 1921 a modern two-story research laboratory was constructed; from this building emerged new compounds for waterproofing, increasing tensile strength, dyeing, emulsifying and finishing cotton, rayon, celanese and other fabrics.

In 1930 Mr. Carl P. Waldinger, the founder and president of the company, decided that a division of labor was necessary. The Nyanza Color and Chemical Company of New York, one of the country's leading importers and exporters of dyestuffs, was made selling agent, and the companies were merged under the name of the Chemical Manufacturing Company, Incorporated. During the past quarter of a century, the company's original floor space has expanded from 4000 to 60,000 square feet, and its personnel has increased considerably.

The Colonial Lacquer and Chemical Company was organized in Framingham in 1935 by Earnest F. Weaver. Two years later the present property and buildings at 1 Eliot Street in Ashland were acquired, and in 1939 Arthur W. McLean became associated with the firm as vice-president in charge of sales. At the present time the company employs 10 persons, including 2 chemists. The firm produces clear and

pigmented lacquers, as well as synthetic finishes for wood and metal products; many of its customers are nationally known manufacturers.

The Ashland Pattern and Model Works, established since 1916 in a factory on Front Street, Ashland, manufactures wood patterns for castings, and does cabinet making as well. The proprietor is E. R. Snyder.

The Ashland Woodworking Company, established in 1935, occupies 10,000 square feet of space on Pleasant Street. It produces interior and exterior mill work, including windows, doors, screens, and so forth. The proprietor is R. P. McHeffey.

The firm of Cook Chairs, Incorporated, was first established in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as a wood specialty manufacturing shop. In 1898 the owner, Charles A. Cook, developed the first typewriter chair with a spring back, and later on did a large export business in this and other types of office chairs. The firm moved to Ashland in 1928. Its products are sold by office furniture distributors throughout the country.

The Interstate Manufacturing Company, producing leather and rubber sportswear, occupies 50,000 square feet of factory space on Pleasant Street. Owners and partners are Fred and George Freedman. Ninety persons are employed. The firm is only two years old, having originated in 1939.<sup>259</sup>

## TOWN WATER SUPPLY

From time to time the town approved and paid for the construction of wells to supply water for fire protection, watering troughs, and pumps. Early in 1875 the suggestion was made that water be piped from the Sudbury River through Main Street to a point as far as Central Street. The committee appointed to study this proposition<sup>260</sup> reported that

the cheapest supply of water for the town, to put out fires, will be obtained by putting a pipe into the Pond of the Dwight Print Company, and laying it down through Main Street, with Hydrants as often as 500 feet. If such a pipe were laid as far as Central Street, it would seem to meet all the present needs of the village, and could at any time be extended in any direction to meet the future wants of the place . . .<sup>261</sup>

The estimated cost of this plan amounted to \$4345. The voters, however, took no further action on the matter at the time,<sup>262</sup> and continued to rely on wells for fire fighting purposes.

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259. Information for this section was secured from the firms described.

260. Town Records, II, 76.

261. Town Archives, pp. 1-17.

262. Town Records, II, 84.

In 1901 the question of providing an adequate water supply for all purposes again came before the voters for action, again with little subsequent action.<sup>263</sup> In 1906 a proposition was made to install a public water supply system.<sup>264</sup> A committee was appointed to examine the matter. At a special town meeting, held on December 9, 1907, its report was read and accepted, and a water loan of \$60,000, was authorized.<sup>265</sup> A new committee was set up to carry out this work.<sup>266</sup>

On April 28, 1908, the General Court passed an act authorizing the town of Ashland to establish a municipal water system, with the usual rights of purchasing private land and constructing reservoirs and buildings. It was also authorized to borrow money to an amount not exceeding \$60,000, to pay for the expenses of the system.<sup>267</sup>

The town accepted the act of the General Court on October 6, 1910, and elected its first Board of Water Commissioners.<sup>268</sup> The town then authorized the water commissioners to proceed as soon as feasible with the construction of the water works. A sum not exceeding \$50,000 was appropriated for establishing the system.<sup>269</sup>

The work of the water supply committee is briefly reviewed in its report issued in 1910:

Under the authority of a vote passed by the Town at the meeting of March 28, 1910, the Water Supply Committee engaged the services of William S. Johnson, one of the most competent waterworks engineers in Massachusetts. Mr. Johnson therefore selected a site on the north bank of the mill-pond where the configuration of the ground and its elevation above the village gave favorable indications as regards freedom from pollution and probable abundance of water. . . . After considerable difficulty on account of the numerous cobble-stones which underlie the surface a 1¼-inch extra heavy pipe was forced down 23 feet, where a supply of water was found which appeared to be excellent in quality and abundant . . . . The Town probably will not require for several years a quantity in excess of 40,000 gallons per day . . . . More water than this was actually obtained from the three wells which have been already driven.<sup>270</sup>

The pumping station off Fisher Street was completed in 1911, and was equipped with two kerosene-driven engines to supply power for the pumps. Water was taken from twelve driven wells, and the town

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263. *Ibid.*, p. 629.

264. *Ibid.*, p. 751.

265. *Ibid.*, p. 782.

266. *Ibid.*

267. *Acts*, 1908, ch. 456.

268. *Town Records*, III, 9.

269. *Ibid.*

270. *Report of the Water Supply Committee of the Town of Ashland*, pp. 2, 3.

was first supplied by the new water system during that year. Subsequently the kerosene engines were replaced by electrical equipment. No additional wells were driven in this location.<sup>271</sup>

Within a few years it was found necessary to take steps to increase the available water supply, and a new series of seven wells were driven just south of the point where Indian Brook joins the Sudbury River.<sup>272</sup> Here a second pumping station was erected. Subsequently 4, 5, and finally 15 additional wells were driven in this locality, so that there are today 31 wells supplying water for the second pumping station, from which is derived the greater part of the water used in the town. Much of this work was done in 1936 and 1937 by means of federal grants made in conjunction with W. P. A. projects.<sup>273</sup> In 1939 a committee was appointed which is now examining the possibility of establishing a municipal sewerage system with the aid of federal funds.<sup>274</sup>

In 1941 the rainfall was abnormally low in Massachusetts, with the result that very many towns and a great many property owners had difficulty with their water supply. To make the situation worse in Ashland the demand for water was greatly increased on account of the stimulated industrial activity brought about directly or indirectly by the war. The facilities of the water department were strained to the utmost and for a time it was necessary to purchase additional water from Framingham.

Recommendations were made to the town that a new reinforced concrete standpipe of a capacity of a million gallons be constructed on a ledge about 1000 feet northeast from the intersection of Main and Chestnut Streets. The top of this standpipe was to be at the same level as the existing 300,000 gallon standpipe off Myrtle Street. A further recommendation was made that a new pumping station be constructed at a point about 1500 feet southwest from the southerly end of Washakum pond with the necessary connection to the underground water main.

The town appropriated \$65,000 and adopted both of these recommendations. Before the end of the year most of the work had been completed and the critical condition had been overcome.

## METROPOLITAN WATER BASIN

In the year 1872 the City of Boston, looking forward to the time when a greater water supply would be needed, proposed to divert a part of the Sudbury River to its use and erect suitable dams for the

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271. Information supplied by Charles N. Stone.

272. Town Records, III, 292.

273. *Ibid.*, IV, 141, 142, 144, 146, 147, 162.

274. *Ibid.*, p. 199.



establishment of water basins. The town fathers of Ashland, apparently unable to foresee the disastrous consequences of this proposal to the town, made no objection to the proposition, and the first of several acts authorizing the development was passed without protest by the General Court on April 8th of that year.<sup>275</sup>

In 1878 a basin was constructed, which came up into Ashland, not far from the railroad station. This is a narrow basin, two miles long, for the most part within Framingham, and has a dam 25 feet high. Approximately 134 acres of land have been flooded by this basin. The cost of this construction was in excess of \$71,000. This is known as Reservoir No. 2.<sup>276</sup>

In 1881 construction was started on another basin in the valley of Cold Spring Brook. This development lies wholly in Ashland. An earth embankment 60 feet high, 20 feet wide on top, and 1800 feet long was erected. This is held in place by a concrete core wall, 8 feet thick at the bottom and 3 feet thick at the top. In the middle of the valley this wall is nearly 100 feet high. It cost nearly \$814,000. Work was not completed until 1885. The basin, now known as Reservoir No. 4, covers 167 acres.<sup>277</sup>

In 1877 the town of Hopkinton was authorized by the General Court to supply itself with water,<sup>278</sup> and this enactment, in conjunction with those made earlier, made possible the construction, from 1890 through 1894, of the so-called Hopkinton Reservoir, which is also Reservoir No. 6 of the Metropolitan system. This lies a little more than three miles to the west of the center of Ashland village, and is partly in Ashland territory. The embankment here is 65 feet high, and the entire project cost \$910,330. At the time of its completion this reservoir was rated the best example of its kind in the Boston Water Works.<sup>279</sup> The basin floods 185 acres of former lowland.<sup>280</sup>

As these large dams were built and the basins formed, the water power, on which the continued prosperity of the town appeared at the time to depend, was lost. Much of the acreage along the river and brooks was inundated, factory buildings were rendered useless, and long stretches of once-fertile land were lost to the town. Some existing roadways were obliterated by the changes, others had to be relocated, and the change in the manufacturing areas affected, caused shifts in the population of the town, which in turn entailed unexpected expense in other ways, notably in the educational system of the town.

When the City of Boston proposed in 1883 to take additional water

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275. *Acts*, 1872, ch. 177.

276. Desmond Fitzgerald, *A Short Description of the Boston Water Works*, pp. 10-13.

277. *Ibid.*

278. *Acts*, 1877, ch. 122.

279. Fitzgerald, *op. cit.*, pp. 13, 14.

280. *Ibid.*, p. 10.

privileges in the town, the inhabitants rose in protest. A committee was appointed to protect the rights of the town and its citizens, and to prevent, if possible, "the securing of additional powers through legislation" which would in any way affect the water rights or lands. This committee was authorized to draw whatever money might be needed in order to defend the town in this respect.<sup>281</sup>

Whatever plans the City of Boston may have had at the time with respect to the Sudbury River water, or to new construction which would have affected Ashland, gave way to a proposition to erect an enormous basin in Clinton. This brought about an enactment in 1895 which authorized the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir.<sup>282</sup> On June 3, 1899, the General Court passed an act granting the town of Ashland, as damages, the sum of \$2200 each month "until ten years after the reservoirs or basins situated in said town of Ashland cease to be a part of the metropolitan water system."<sup>283</sup>

## ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A meeting of the Historical Committee of the Home Study Club was held this afternoon . . . this being the first meeting of the committee, the most feasible ways and means of making a starting point and attempt to accomplish something in the way of collecting material whereby in the future Historic Rooms might be made valuable to the present and future generations would be benefited in years to come, and all such articles of interest as might be donated from time (to time) would also be carefully preserved. . .

Thus reads the record of a meeting held on January 30, 1905. From the activity of this special committee of the Home Study Club, there developed the present Ashland Historical Society.

Its first action was to secure quarters for the proposed exhibit of loaned or donated articles relating to the earlier history of the town. Abner Greenwood offered a vacant room in the Greenwood Block on Front Street, and here the committee gathered together, within a surprisingly short time, a very creditable collection. Starting with the donation of a large copper cent, dated 1787, the committee soon had a wide range of interesting and important mementos of earlier days, together with the beginning of a sizable collection of photographs. The movement made rapid progress, until on May 29, 1909, the Ashland Historical Society was regularly incorporated. The charter sets forth as its objectives

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281. Town Records, II, 241, 243.

282. Acts, 1887, ch. 122.

283. *Ibid.*, 1899, ch. 480.

the prosecution of historical and antiquarian work and research, the collection and preservation of books, pamphlets and articles of historical and antiquarian interest, the publication of periodicals and pamphlets treating of historical and kindred subjects, and other historical and antiquarian objects and purposes.

During the first week of October, 1910, the society removed from the room in the Greenwood Block to the basement of the library building, which was opened to the public for the first time on October 8, 1910. These quarters, now far too small to permit adequate display of the material that has been accumulated, are still occupied by the society.

The room is opened on infrequent occasions, and its large collection of antique items makes it well worth repeated visits. Thanks to the work of numerous historical-minded Ashland men and women, the manuscripts, books and clippings have increased in number until there is an impressive collection of them; unfortunately they are not yet so arranged and catalogued as to be readily available. Much research has been done by members of the society concerning the early families that settled here in and before the Unionville days. There are also in the town private collections of historical and genealogical material which should be added to those kept by the Ashland Historical Society.<sup>284</sup>

## STONE PARK

The first move by the town to provide a recreation park was made shortly before 1891, when it was proposed that a tract of land between Front Street and the railroad property be purchased and improved for this purpose. At a special town meeting held on August 10, 1891, the voters appropriated money for the park,<sup>285</sup> but the project was dropped when it was discovered that it might be impossible for the town to secure a clear title to the land.

Thereafter the park matter rested until the middle of 1907, when the town accepted from Colonel Charles F. Homer, acting as trustee under the will of Napoleon B. Stone, the tract of land which has since been known as Stone Park. The record of the acceptance of this park, under the date of August 14, 1907, reads:

Voted: That the proposed gift of Col. Charles F. Homer, of New York City, of land lying in Ashland between Cherry and Summer Streets, and other land of his, to the Town of Ashland, for a public park . . . is hereby accepted.

And the town hereby agrees that the tract of land so proposed . . . shall forever be held as a public park . . . that

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284. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

285. Town Records, II, 418, 419.

the town will perpetually care for the old burying ground located on Union Street, in which lie buried remains of early settlers, also will perpetually care for the lot of the Stone family, in which lie buried the remains of Napoleon B. Stone and others, in Wildwood Cemetery. . .

For these valuable gifts of land . . . the town hereby records its grateful appreciation, and expresses the hope and intention ever to hold the same as a memorial of a family greatly respected, and whose history extends back to the beginning of the occupancy by white people of the lands of this Village, and among whose more recent members the names of John Stone and Napoleon B. Stone stand forth with distinction.<sup>286</sup>

From time to time after the transfer of the water rights to the Metropolitan water board, there were proposals that the town construct a swimming pool. This proposition reached the voters in the form of an article inserted in the town warrant for 1913, but no action was taken at the time.<sup>287</sup> In 1917 the proposal was made that the town supply the necessary land and material, and negotiate a contract with the Metropolitan board to build the pool and filter beds, which would subsequently be maintained at the expense of the town.<sup>288</sup> A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, but little progress was made. In 1919 a bill was introduced into the General Court to open the waters of Washakum pond for bathing purposes, and although this had the support of the town and surrounding communities, it was not adopted.<sup>289</sup>

In 1929<sup>290</sup> and 1931<sup>291</sup> other attempts were made to push the matter forward, but it was not until 1935 that the General Court provision relative to the purchase of land for the construction of bathing places was accepted by the town in March, 1935, and an agreement was entered into with the Lombard Governor Company to enable the town to take water from the mill pond.<sup>292</sup> Land on Granite Street was donated for the proposed swimming pool and an appropriation to pay needed equipment was approved. The plan proposed involved the acceptance of a federal E. R. A. construction project, and this arrangement was accepted.<sup>293</sup> Additional appropriation for equipment was approved in 1937,<sup>294</sup> and construction work was started. The original plans for the swimming pool were not carried through to completion because of the increased allotments for extension of the town water mains, also built

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286. *Ibid.*, pp. 767-771.

287. *Ibid.*, III, 132.

288. *Ibid.*, p. 243.

289. *Ibid.*, pp. 352, 353.

290. *Ibid.*, pp. 666, 667.

291. *Ibid.*, p. 719.

292. *Ibid.*, IV, 55.

293. *Ibid.*, p. 56.

294. *Ibid.*, p. 134.



with the assistance of federal appropriations. However, a smaller pool, approximately half the size of the original, planned in 1937, was completed and turned over to the town in 1940. The cost of this project amounted to \$36,126.08, of which the town paid \$8,128.40 and the federal government \$27,997.68.<sup>295</sup> In 1939 the town rejected a proposal to appropriate money for the construction of two dressing rooms at the pool.<sup>296</sup>

## CEMETERIES

At the time Ashland was incorporated the only available place of interment within the town limits was the small lot of land, at first privately owned, and established in 1836 as a cemetery for the Unionville Evangelical Society. It is situated in the rear of the Federated Church. This is referred to in the town records as the "Old Cemetery" or the "Parish Cemetery," in contrast to the Old Revolutionary Burying Ground on Union Street, where the memorial to the first settlers stands. It is probably impossible to ascertain at how early a date this parish cemetery was first used for burial purposes. The earliest of the old-time slates, a memorial to Nathan Clark, son of William and Hannah Clark, bears the date of April 30, 1828. This is eight years earlier than the Evangelical Society was formed, and probably about 10 years prior to the time when the society took over the land as a public cemetery. This tract was sold to the town on May 6, 1850.<sup>297</sup>

When Ashland was set off, the old place of burial on Union Street had been closed for many years. This enclosure, which has come to be called the Old Revolutionary Burying Ground, was deeded to the town in 1852. Later a suitable marker was erected:

In this Cemetery lie the remains of Savil Simpson, the first settler in this Valley, and who purchased it from the original grantee of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and his descendants, as well as the ancestors of the old families of this Town. Also, many of those who served and some of whom gave their lives in the service of their country during the Indian and French Wars, and the War of the American Revolution.

This Cemetery was deeded to the Town of Ashland in 1852 to be forever preserved and held sacred.

To Your Honor it is entrusted.

In 1908 bronze markers were placed on the graves of five Revolutionary soldiers buried in this enclosure.<sup>298</sup>

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295. Data supplied by Leon H. Davis, Town W.P.A. administrator.

296. Town Records, IV, 194, 206.

297. *Ibid.*, I, 93.

298. Mrs. Minnie Jones Stearns, *op. cit.*

At the right of the entrance, and dominating the old burying ground, is the family tomb of Dr. Jeremy Stimson. In the westerly corner of the old enclosure are the unmarked graves of the slaves who were attached to the early households.<sup>299</sup> Here are some of the more interesting epitaphs:

This modest Stone, what few vain marbles can,  
May truly say Here lies an honest man,  
A safe companion, and an easy Friend  
Unblam'd through Life, lamented in thy End.

Tri'd with the Sorrows, and the Cares,  
A tedious train of Fourscore years,  
The Prisoner smil'd to be released  
She felt her fetters loose & mounted to her rest.

The sweet Remembrance of the Just,  
Shall flourish while they sleep in Dust.

Although the cemetery in back of the Congregational Church had passed into the hand of the town in 1850, there was continued agitation in favor of a new town-owned cemetery, laid out on modern lines, and of sufficient size to take care of anticipated requirements for years to come. In response to this demand, Ashland in 1869 purchased from Charles Alden a large tract of land, overlooking the river, and to the south of Union Street, near the eastern edge of the village. This has remained the only local place of burial in general use, and is supervised by an elective board of trustees, who also have supervision over the older burying grounds in the town.<sup>300</sup> Known as Wildwood Cemetery, it was dedicated with appropriate exercises on June 24, 1870.<sup>301</sup>

## EARLY ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Much later in point of time than the Connecticut Path was the once important Mendon road, long disappeared and all but forgotten. Parts of this ancient highway may still be traced. The Mendon road is mentioned in a deed dated April 7, 1798, when Aaron Eames transferred property to Jonathan Hale. At that time the road had ceased to be used.

Mendon road entered Ashland by way of the hill near where was once Cutler's bridge, passing through lands now covered by extensive woods. After passing along the south side of the old Ashland poor farm property it turned in a southwesterly direction, not far from the wall that marked the rear bounds of Higley's woods. Fifty years ago there

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299. *Ibid.*

300. Town Records, I, 436, 437.

301. Collections of the Ashland Historical Society.

was a narrow cart path running to the John Shube<sup>302</sup> place, which is supposed to have followed the old road to some extent. From there it turned toward the west. The boundary wall of the Shube property on this side follows for a part of its length the Mendon road. From that point it crossed the present Holliston road just south of the Hiram Mel- len, later the Kimball estate, and joined a road west of the present Kimball house, so called, on Chestnut Street.<sup>303</sup>

Other early roads in Ashland are described in the town records of Framingham and Hopkinton. The earliest of these was Fountain Street, which was authorized in April, 1709, when a road from Savil Simpson's farm to the meeting house was laid out

beginning at the river at the southerly corner of the land that the said Simpson bought of Joseph Buckminster, and so to run easterly, so as to come into that way formerly occupied a little before it comes to a pine tree standing on the south side of said way, and then to run as the way lyes till it comes near the river, and then to run as near the river as will allow of a good cart-way, till it comes to the upper end of James Collier's meadow and then to cross the river,<sup>304</sup> and to run as the way lyes till it comes into the highway<sup>305</sup> that leads from the Haven's to the meeting house.<sup>306</sup>

The first entry in the records of Framingham regarding present-day Park Street appears under the date of March 5, 1743/4. This provides for a road laid out

from Park's corner south over the hil by the west end of Elkanah Haven's house, then as the way is improved to Nathan Haven's stone wall, and by said wall to the road formerly laid out by the said Nathan Haven's.<sup>307</sup>

On November 22, 1756, provision is made for a road at the south-west corner of the town

beginning at the river between Hopkinton and Framingham at a small saxafax stand marked, thence by Elisha Bemis' land, to a small rock close to a small brook, then to an apple tree in said Bemis' fence, then as said Bemis' fence now stands till it comes to Thomas Pierce, his land, and from thence to the west end of said Pierces stone wall on the south side of said way, thence by the wall, then turning more northerly to a tree standing near Southborough line.<sup>308</sup>

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302. "The Shube place;" this is now known as the Walter L. Leach property.

303. George T. Higley mss. in Ashland Historical Society.

304. At Collier's Bridge.

305. Park Street.

306. Temple, *op. cit.*, p. 159.

307. *Ibid.*, p. 242.

308. *Ibid.*, p. 243.

Another road which affected Ashland territory was authorized by the town of Framingham on March 7, 1768. The record reads:

Road from Abraham Rice's southwest corner over the Common. From the corner of Abraham Rice's stone wall, thence near where the way is now occupied to or by the east end of William Merritt's dwelling-house, thence on the south side of his house, taking off a part of his garden, till we come to a corner of Jonthan Maynard's land, and Ebenezer Singletary's land, thence to near Daniel Claflin's house, thence to a large rock, thence to a corner bound of Col. Buckminster's and Job Burnam's; thence through undivided land to Capt. Josiah Stone's land, a large rock on the north side, thence through Cornelius Claflin's land to land of John Clayes, Jr., and Joseph Nurse to a lot belonging either to Col. Buckminster or Col. Bronkley's heirs, thence as the way is now trod through said lot, and no further.<sup>309</sup>

A continuation of this road, from Timothy Pike's westward through George Simpson's land to the river, where it met a road laid out by Hopkinton, was built in 1774.<sup>310</sup>

Myrtle Street was authorized on March 14, 1781. The road ran "from Simon Pratt's (by the well on the top of the hill south of Mrs. Badger's) to William Ballord's."<sup>311</sup>

In December, 1795, Framingham voted to construct another road:

from Capt. Jones' mill to Nathan Dadmun's and the Common road. Beginning at the river below said Jones' mill, thence northerly over the waste-way to a large rock, thence through William Ballord's land, thence through wid. Dadmun's land, thence through Lawson Nurse's land, thence to the corner of Nathan Dadmun's wall, thence by said Dadmun's house as the wall stands to the town road north of said house.<sup>312</sup>

In 1797 the town accepted an alteration of this road, beginning about 60 rods east of Nathan Dadmun's house, at a rock on the east side of a road, thence running across his field and the Nurse land to another road leading to Capt. Jones' mill.<sup>313</sup>

On June 24, 1824, the General Court granted a charter to Samuel Slater, Joseph Valentine, John J. Clark, and others, as the Central Turnpike Corporation. This project was put through successfully, and the Central Turnpike was constructed from the Worcester pike in Needham, through Natick to the south end of Farm Pond in Framingham, and on past Jones' mill to the meeting house in Hopkinton. The turnpike

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309. *Ibid.*, p. 244.

310. *Ibid.*

311. *Ibid.*

312. *Ibid.*, p. 245.

313. *Ibid.*



was operated until 1835, when the construction of the railroad brought the enterprise to an end. Portions of the pike were taken over as town ways, and other sections were incorporated into county roads. Among the latter was a section, now in Ashland, which is thus described in the Framingham records:

The county road near the blacksmith's shop of the late Alexr. Clark, running easterly over the late Central Turnpike to the top of the hill in the land of Michael Homer, thence in a straight course to the Holliston road, near the house of Royal Grout.<sup>314</sup>

Green Street was first laid out as a private way, running from the road near the house of Joseph Ballard, past the houses of David Frost and Ebenezer Knowlton, to the Mill road, later known as Myrtle Street. On April 11, 1825, it was described as "being already open and fenced, and the whole of the distance being a very ancient bridge way, and in good condition for travel."<sup>315</sup>

Oregon Street was laid out "from near the house of Lawson Nurse" in 1831. This continued westerly through the valley to the Oregon section and the Southboro line.<sup>316</sup>

While these roads were being laid out in the section of Ashland which was then included in the town of Framingham, Hopkinton was engaged in similar construction work. One of the first acts of the Hopkinton selectmen after the organization of the town was to construct a public highway from the old bridge near Savil Simpson's mill to the village center, which then probably was little more than a clearing in the forest. The record of this construction appears in the Hopkinton records under the date of March 12, 1724/5:

The way leading from Framingham to Hopkinton begins at the middle of the Bridge and Casway at the End of Mr. Simson's Land running westwardly through Mr. Simson's farm where the road is now occupied two rods wide to the End of said lane and from thence four rods wide running Eastwardly to Mr. Huston's House and over the South End of Magunkuk hill southwardly of Mr. Brewer's house and Through Brewer's lot and wotson's lot and over the South End of the little Chestnut hill and over the rocky swamp so on to the foot of the meeting house hill which road from the west End of Mr. Simson's Lane is four rods wide Described by marked trees standing on the northwardly side of said road.

This ancient roadway is the present Union Street from the bridge near the Telechron factory as far as Frankland Street, and from that

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314. *Ibid.*, p. 362.

315. *Ibid.*

316. *Ibid.*, p. 363.

point on has become known as Frankland Street. From the brief description given in the Hopkinton records several interesting facts may be ascertained. Savil Simpson had a private way through his farm, which had not become the regular route of travel between Framingham and Hopkinton at that time. The then public highway was the old Connecticut Path, which lay south of the Simpson farm, and probably met Simpson's private lane somewhere near the present Valentine house. The Valentine land was then held by Robert Huston, who had a house there. Mr. Brewer, probably the John Brewer who was an early selectman of Hopkinton, had a house on the south side of Magunko hill. To the west was "wotson's lot," probably belonging to John Watson, another early settler who eventually relinquished his holdings and moved to Blandford.

Five years after the selectmen laid out this road for public use, a new bridge was built over the Sudbury River to accommodate the people making use of the new thoroughfare. This action is recorded in the Hopkinton town records under the date of December 5, 1729:

Voted, . . . upon an agreement between the selectmen of Hopkinton and the selectmen and agents of Framingham Relating to the New Bridge at the lower end of Mr. Simpson's lane over the river into Framingham, . . . That Selectmen of H. aforesd did mutually agree with the Selectmen and agents aforesd that they will maintain in good repair their section of the sd bridge as was then set out by metes and Bounds mutually agreed upon by the parties aforesd in the conditions following: that ye Town of Framingham would give up the way from the new Bridge up to the road leading from the old Bridge to Framingham meeting House.

This did not definitely settle the location of the highway, however, for John Howe had purchased the old mill site from Savil Simpson and the new road cut across his land. The difficulty was settled the following year, when Hopkinton "voted to Grant seven pounds to add unto the nineteen pounds which Mr. John Jones offers toward making satisfaction to Mr. John Howe upon the account of the Execution."<sup>317</sup>

Olive Street, in Ashland, was laid out shortly after the town of Hopkinton was incorporated. The town, on January 17, 1725/6, voted as follows:

Voted . . . the road Leading from Mr. Huston's up to Mr. Henry Mellenses begining at the south End of magunkuk hill at the main road runing through said Huston's lot by marked trees on the northwestwardly side of said road and so runing through that lot that was Layd out for Nathaniel Eames by marked trees til it comes to Samuel

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317. October 26, 1730.

Cornings lot and so runing on the south side of his lot and runing over that bridge known by the name of Mellenses Bridge said road was Layd out by Samuel Corning and John Jones who was appointed for that End.

Howe Street is described in the Hopkinton records, on March 25, 1726, as a "Hyway Two Rods wide"

Beginning at a river which is the bounds between Framingham and Hopkinton thence runing by marked trees on the northwardly side of said way through william weston's James Beards and Peter How's Lots until it Come to a Brook comonly Caled Indian Brook thence runing by marked trees on the south side of said way until it come to the End of the plain belonging to Peter How then runing southwestwardly and runing by marked trees on the northwesterly sid of said way until it come east of the lot belonging to Isaac Whitney then Turning South and running by marked trees on the west side of said way until it come to the Counteey road at the foot of the meeting house hill in Hopkinton.

As Howe Street becomes Wilson Street in Hopkinton, the latter part of the foregoing description of course applies to Wilson Street.

Following is the eighteenth century description of Spring Street, as it appears in the Hopkinton records under the date of March 17, 1760:

Voted to accept the Road laid out by the Selectmen From Parkers farm (so called) to the place where the old grist mill in Amariah Havens Land, and over sd mill Brook and thence on the north side of said Brook as the road is now trod to a post with stones around it near Nathan Havens sawmill, and thence thro land of Nathl Haven & David Havens House. Said road to be two rods wide except at the Grist mill Dam above mentioned. Which Dam sd Amariah Haven and his Father Jedidiah Haven Promise & engage to make a good Cartway 15 feet wide, and sd road is to be no more than 15 feet wide so far as said Dam or Cousway exends. They also promise to build the frame of a Floom in sd stream. And in case they ever build a Grist mill in sd Place they promise to maintain the dam a good cartway.

Some time before 1736 a road was laid out which cut across the southwest corner of Ashland territory. The Hopkinton record reads:

Laid out by the selectmen of Hopkinton subscribers hereto a Town road beginning at the southwesterly part of Robert Black's lot, in sd Town running eastwardly over Common Land then over part of Wilm Knoxes lot then over Common Land then over part of Mark Whitney's lot, also his Saw Mill Dam and some few Rods over John Bowker's land untill it cometh into the Road that Leadeth fm Peter

How's to Hopkinton meeting House which Road is laid out two Rods wide and described by markt trees standing on the southwardly and westwardly side of sd Road . . . This road allowed, provided Mark Whitney builds and maintains a good Cart Bridge over sd dam he giving sufficient Bond to ye selectmen for ye performance of same.

Robert Black and William Knox, above mentioned, together with James McClintock, then held about 300 acres along the southern bank of the Sudbury River below Saddle Hill. This land they sold to Rev. Roger Price when they removed to Blandford.

A second road was laid out in this same part of the town, and was accepted by the town at a meeting held on March 3, 1746. The record supplies the following description:

Road Layd out by the selectmen Two Rods wide from the ford way below Mr. Prices mill and from thence as the foot path goes being bounded on the west & s west by markt trees and heaps of stones untill it comes to the Road leading to Robt Blake place.

In the warrant for the town meeting held in Hopkinton on February 18, 1753, there appeared the following article:

To see whether the town will grant the pition of sir henry franklain with Regard to turning a Road that passes throw his land.

Favorable action on this request was taken by the town on March 12, 1753. The roadway under discussion was that which is now known as Cross Street. The action is thus recorded:

Voted to grant sir henry franklains Request in Respect of a Road that is the Road leading from thomas butlers to the contery Road through the land that was Jeremiah Hobses be altered and laid out upon the westerly side of said land said gentleman clearing said Road as promised in his letter to the selectmen.

When this action was taken, Union Street south of Frankland Street, was not in existence. The "contery road" was that part of the Connecticut Path which became Frankland Street. Thomas Butler held the land at the northeast corner of Route 135 and Clinton Street, property which had formerly belonged to Samuel Streeter. The Hobbs land, which was purchased by Frankland later, was west of Frankland Manor, and the original road ran through it from north to south. The effect of this action was to move the road to the west side of the Hobbs land, where it lies today.<sup>318</sup>

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318. Hopkinton Town Records, *passim*; Ashland Town Records, *passim*; *Map of Ashland, Published by the Town.*



As late as 1859 there were many streets within the town that had never been given "official" designations. In that year the town set up a committee to study this problem and return a report. At a meeting held on March 7th it was voted "that the Report, naming the streets in town, be recorded on the town books."<sup>319</sup> Which streets were thus given names, and the manner in which they had been selected by the committee, do not appear in the record. However, an examination of any of the old maps of the Ashland territory will disclose street names not now in use; roads will be shown which have ceased to exist, and in some instances, the routes followed by roadways still extant will be found to show substantial differences from present-day routes. Many of the earlier highways fell into disuse after better roads were constructed. At a much later date, the construction of the reservoirs changed the location of many streets and ways, and eliminated others altogether.

### THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

From the year of the town's incorporation up to 1885 there was from time to time considerable agitation regarding the question of liquor licenses and liquor sales, but the sentiment of the town was always strongly in favor of no license. As time went on, however, the wet faction gradually increased in number until in 1886 the vote in favor of local liquor sales stood at 130, with 135 opposed.<sup>320</sup>

This precipitated a bitter controversy between the two parties, which reached a climax in 1887, when an attempt was made to secure the usual appropriation of \$500 "for the suppression and detection of illegal sales of liquor." When this article in the warrant came up for consideration, the pro-liquor element was successful in getting the annual appropriation reduced to only one dollar. This vote, to all intents and purposes, indicated a willingness on the part of the majority of the voters to permit illegal sales of liquor, without the possibility of town interference. Thereafter the record of the meeting reads:

Upon motion of Adrian Foote, which was made in writing to the effect that the Selectmen be authorized to employ legal counsel and other efficient agents to assist them in the prosecution of all violations of the Law for the suppression of the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, the vote being called for, it was decided in the negative and so declared by the Moderator, consequently the vote to so instruct the Selectmen as per above motion, was lost.

An amendment was made, not to exceed the sum of \$30.00.

The amendment was lost.

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319. Town Records, I, 225.

320. *Ibid.*, II, 294.

The vote as announced was taken, and lost.  
The vote was doubted.  
Voted to divide the house.  
Voted not to employ legal Counsel as embodied in the  
motion of Adrian Foote.<sup>321</sup>

This left the town in the uncomfortable position of having approved a no-license status, but refusing to approve local enforcement of the liquor law.

Another town meeting was called in May, 1886. The proponents on both sides marshaled their forces during the interim. At this meeting the town reverted to its long-established custom, and \$500 was appropriated to prosecute and uphold the law. To this action, however, was added the provision that "no part of this money should be expended in encouraging Spotters to come into the town."<sup>322</sup>

The wet element, having been successful in adding this new provision to the original proposal, then moved for reconsideration of the appropriation itself. A second vote was taken, and the amount to be used to enforce the liquor law was reduced to \$300. The drys immediately rallied, and in turn called for a reconsideration of the revised vote, with the result that the appropriation was increased to \$1000—a sum hitherto unheard of in Ashland for this purpose. The meeting then voted to authorize the selectmen to employ the usual "agents."

Once more the wet faction moved for reconsideration of the entire matter, whereupon the majority, now clearly on the side of enforcement, voted not only to let the action stand as passed, but to authorize the selectmen "to draw one thousand dollars additional from the town treasury for the suppression and prosecution of the illegal sales."<sup>323</sup>

This so effectively disposed of the problem that in 1889, when the question of granting liquor licenses again came before the town meeting, the recorded vote showed 152 opposed, and only 36 in favor of permitting liquor to be sold for beverage purposes in the town.<sup>324</sup>

## THE TOWN POOR

The problem of providing a suitable town farm or almshouse for the poor arose shortly after Ashland was incorporated. For its first few years the town followed the common practice of "letting out" the paupers to the lowest bidders. However, in December, 1855, there appeared in the warrant for the town meeting an article relative to the purchase of a town farm, on which the voters took affirmative action.<sup>325</sup> The fol-

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321. *Ibid.*, p. 320.

322. *Ibid.*, p. 322.

323. *Ibid.*, p. 323.

324. *Ibid.*, p. 357.

325. *Ibid.*, I, 211.

lowing spring the matter was brought up for reconsideration, and the earlier vote in favor of a town-owned almshouse was rescinded.<sup>326</sup>

At the annual meeting held March 1, 1858, the town gave the Overseers of the Poor "discretionary power to hire a farm for the paupers, and employ a man to take charge of them on the first of April, or let them out in the usual way, as they may think best."<sup>327</sup>

On March 7, 1859, an article was inserted in the town warrant "To see if the town will chose a committee to purchase a Pauper Establishment," which was passed over by the voters without any action.<sup>328</sup> But on adjournment of this meeting the selectmen were delegated to receive proposals from persons having farms to sell, and late in 1859 a suitable farm was purchased.<sup>329</sup>

In April, 1860, the town adopted "rules and regulations" governing the treatment and conduct of the poor at the new town farm. These "Almshouse Rules" are not without interest:

Article 1. The inmates shall be provided with good suitable meats and drink, lodging and clothing, and have their meals at proper hours, and all eat together in an orderly decent manner and no one shall be allowed to be absent from said meals without leave of the Superintendent.

Article 2. Any inmate who shall bring or cause to be brought into said Establishment any intoxicating liquor without leave of the Superintendent shall be immediately confined in the Room of Correction for a term not exceeding seven days.

Article 3. Any inmate who shall leave said Establishment without permission of the Superintendent, or shall stay away longer than he or she have permission, shall be prohibited from leaving said Establishment for a term not exceeding ninety days, and for the second offense, a term not exceeding six months, and shall be subject to the room of Correction not exceeding fourteen days.

Article 4. Any inmate found drunk, or using profane or indecent language, or who shall be indecent in behavior, or shall be guilty of theft shall be immediately confined in the Room of Correction and it shall be the duty of the Superintendent forthwith to notify the Overseers of the Poor, who shall fix the time of his or her confinement not exceeding fourteen days for the first offense, and not exceeding thirty days for the second offense.

Article 5. Any inmate who shall be mutinous, quarrelsome, or disobedient to the Superintendent shall be subject to the Room of Correction not exceeding seven days

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326. *Ibid.*, p. 219.

327. *Ibid.*, p. 257.

328. *Ibid.*, p. 269.

329. *Ibid.*, p. 284.

for the first offense and not exceeding fourteen days for the second offense.

Article 6. All persons who shall be confined in the Room of Correction as aforesaid shall subsist on bread and water during their confinement.<sup>330</sup>

Harsh as these rules may appear, they were lenient indeed as compared with the regulations adopted and enforced by many other Massachusetts towns at the time.

Additional land was purchased for the town farm in 1893.<sup>331</sup> In 1905, because of the cost of maintaining the farm, which had become greater than that spent on the care of its inmates, a committee was set up to study the proposal to sell the property, and make other arrangements for the care of the poor of the town.<sup>332</sup> Three different committees worked on this problem,<sup>333</sup> but no definite action was taken until 1914. In that year it was voted to close the farm, sell the fittings, and make arrangements for the maintenance of the poor elsewhere.<sup>334</sup>

## MILITARY HISTORY

The first entry in the town records concerning military matters appears under the date of May 6, 1861, when it was voted:

To grant the use of the Town Hall, free of charge, for the Military Drill Club, or any organized Military Company that is, or may be formed the present year . . . Voted to pay the Drill Sergeant for his services.<sup>335</sup>

In November of the same year the town appropriated \$800 for aiding the families of all volunteers in the service of the United States.<sup>336</sup> The following year \$500 was appropriated for this purpose.<sup>337</sup> In August 1862, an additional \$3500 was appropriated to use for the relief of the families of enlisted men, and the payment of \$100 bounty to each volunteer in the "nine month's quota" was authorized.<sup>338</sup> At the annual meeting of March, 1863, the town appropriated \$2000 for relief, and the following action is recorded:

Voted, that the Selectmen be instructed to send for the bodies of deceased soldiers from this Town, so far as practicable, and that the Town Clerk be instructed to notify one in each Regiment of the passage of this act.<sup>339</sup>

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330. *Ibid.*, pp. 292, 293.

331. *Ibid.*, II, 458.

332. *Ibid.*, p. 709.

333. *Ibid.*, p. 739.

334. *Ibid.*, III, 148.

335. *Ibid.*, I, 316.

336. *Ibid.*, p. 321.

337. *Ibid.*, p. 328.

338. *Ibid.*, p. 331.

339. *Ibid.*, p. 343.



In 1864 the town again appropriated \$3000 for the encouragement of enlistments.<sup>340</sup> This amount proved to be inadequate, and an additional \$1864 was raised by private subscription, which sum was later refunded by the town.<sup>341</sup> In August, 1865, the payment of \$125 to each of those who furnished substitutes during the year was approved. In addition the town appropriated \$3500 to be used for recruiting purposes.<sup>342</sup> No further appropriations for this purpose are recorded.

Early in 1868 there was placed before the voters a proposition to erect within the town some suitable monument to commemorate and honor those who had served in the war. Action on this was passed over.<sup>343</sup> Shortly after the conclusion of the war, Prescott Post, No. 18, Grand Army of the Republic, was instituted. Meetings were held in the town hall.

After the acceptance of the gift of Andrew Carnegie, which made possible the library building, the question of erecting a suitable war memorial, which had been held in abeyance since 1868, was again brought to the attention of the voters. At the annual town meeting of 1906 a committee was appointed to take the matter under consideration,<sup>344</sup> which, in 1909, recommended the installation in the new library building of two marble tablets, with the names of the Ashland men participating in the Civil and Spanish-American wars, and \$500 was appropriated to carry out the plan suggested.<sup>345</sup>

At the conclusion of the World War, the public safety committee erected in the public square near the railroad station a Memorial and Honor Roll, giving the names of all Ashland people who participated in the conflict. This was accepted in 1921 by the town, and the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion was delegated to keep the memorial in good order.<sup>346</sup>

## LIGHT AND POWER

As early as 1883, and probably before that year, the town employed a man, with the title of town lamplighter, to care for the kerosene street lamps, both town owned and private. Some of these lamps, as appears from the reports turned in by this official, were fastened on houses, some on trees, and in a few instances, on poles.<sup>347</sup> At least one lamp was kept in reserve for emergency use. No list appears to have

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340. *Ibid.*, p. 362.

341. *Ibid.*, p. 378.

342. *Ibid.*

343. *Ibid.*, p. 419.

344. *Ibid.*, II, 730, 741.

345. *Ibid.*, p. 824.

346. *Ibid.*, III, 410.

347. *Annual Reports*, 1883-1889.

been kept to show where these various lamps were placed, but there were several in the center of the village on Front and Main Streets.<sup>348</sup>

During the period 1889-90 there were 88 lamps in use, of which 32 were owned by the town and 56 by private individuals. To keep these lamps lighted "during the dark nights" took 1179 gallons of oil. The average cost of this illumination was \$4.62 per lamp for the entire year, and this sum was charged to the owners of the private lamps.<sup>349</sup>

A committee was appointed at the adjourned annual town meeting of 1889 to make arrangements with the Framingham Electric Company to supply the town with electric light and power.<sup>350</sup> The first town lighting system of this sort was installed during that year, and consisted of two arc lights of 1200 candle power, and forty "incandescent" lights of 24 candle power.<sup>351</sup>

## POPULATION

In 1850, the year in which the town first appears in the census records, the population of Ashland was 1304; ten years later it had increased to 1554. The figure in 1880 was 2394, which, curiously enough, is within three of the number recorded in 1930, fifty years later. The detailed tabulation follows:

1850.....1304	1895.....2090	1920.....2287
1860.....1554	1900.....1525	1925.....2521
1880.....2394	1905.....1597 <sup>352</sup>	1930.....2397
1885.....2633	1910.....1682	1935.....2497
1890.....2532	1915.....2005	1940.....2479 <sup>353</sup>

During the last decade the proportion of wage earners has been less than in previous years, while the total population has shown some increase. Late figures represent many elderly people and children of school age or younger, and are made up, to a very considerable extent, of descendants of foreign-born residents who were attracted to the town when its mills were at the peak of their prosperity.

348. Information supplied by Leon H. Davis.

349. *Annual Reports*, 1889, p. 38.

350. *Town Records*, II, 375.

351. *Ibid.*, p. 380.

352. *Mass. Census 1905*, I, 222.

353. *Ibid.*, 1940, p. 18.

## APPENDIX A

### THE CONNECTICUT PATH

Probably nothing connected with the early territory that now comprises the town of Ashland has been the subject of more investigation than the old Indian trail known as the Connecticut Path or the Bay Path. The most painstaking survey of the Ashland part of the trail is that made by George T. Higley, and read before the Framingham Historical Society just before the beginning of the twentieth century. Mr. Higley is not always in agreement with other writers, but his report is by far the outstanding, and has been generally accepted as accurate, taking into consideration the nature of the data available.

In Ashland, as well as in all near-by communities through which the trail passed, the name most frequently used is the "Connecticut Path." Beyond Worcester it is usually called the Bay Path. The latter name was selected as official by the Massachusetts Tercentennial Committee in 1930, and the three permanent markers erected along its course during that year give it this name. They read:

The Bay Path  
An Indian Trail before 1630  
Pathway of the Pioneers

The marker in Ashland stands at the junction of Union Street and Frankland Road.

One other historical marker in Ashland marks the course of the trail. This was put up in 1917 by the Ashland Historical Society, which had an inscription placed on a large boulder in Cold Spring Brook, to mark what is supposed to have been the site of the original fording place as first laid out by the Indians. The account of this inscription, as printed in the *Framingham News* for August 6, 1919, calls this boulder "Poet Rock," but the early town historian, George T. Higley, refers to it as "Pout Rock," a name which seems more likely to be correct.

Mr. Higley's article on the location of the Connecticut Path through Ashland follows:

In the grant of the General Court dated October, 1662, of five hundred acres of land, in what is now the centre of Ashland, a reference is made to the "road that leadeth from Sudbury to Connecticut," and in the grant to Richard Russell, in May, 1657, of five hundred acres in the easterly part of this town, the land is described as "lying in the wilderness upon both sides of the path that leadeth from Sudbury toward Nipnop." This was a main Indian trail, which

a little later came to be known as the "Connecticut Path" from its use by the early English settlers going to Connecticut.

This trail, beginning in the easterly part of the state north of the Charles river, came through the towns of Sudbury and Framingham into Ashland and passed on in the direction of Hopkinton and Grafton to the west. Its purpose was to avoid the passage of streams of water and swamps, as well as the climbing of difficult hills. Horses, cattle and foot travelers passed over this trail until the time when roads, broken out by the settlers, or laid out by the towns or counties, superseded its use, and parts of this trail were afterward laid out as public roads.

The Connecticut Path, sometimes called the Old Connecticut path, has been mentioned by historical writers and is referred to in public records. The references to it in old deeds of land lying in these parts appear to be few if any, and it is seldom or never laid down as a boundary probably for the reason that the trail shifted to suit, temporarily, the condition of the ground.

Some writers, after tracing the course of the Connecticut path west to South Framingham, have carried it from that place southeasterly on the Sherborn road over Beaver Dam Brook, at what was anciently an Indian bridge, and by a wide detour, to the south and west circling round the large meadows and swamps that lie in that direction, have brought it into Ashland. These writers do not give direct evidence in support of such a theory, but agree to that effect from the assumed fact that the path could not take a direct line from South Framingham to Ashland because, as they say, there are low lands to be passed between the ponds lying near the first mentioned place, and particularly at the crossing of the southerly outlet of Farm pond. They think that this outlet could not have been passed by cattle, at least, at certain seasons of the year. But an examination of the soil in which this brook lies shows that, certainly for a portion of the way along its course, the earth is of the usual firm upland formation, and that there could have been nothing to prevent crossing here by an ordinary ford.

Possibly, too, certain record references to the "Way from Sudbury to Sherborn" which way was supposed to be a portion of the Connecticut path, may have led to the supposition that this path must have gone to, or through, what is now the town of Sherborn, but it should be remembered that South Framingham was, at that time, within the boundaries of Sherborn, and that by a "way to Sherborn" may have been meant, merely a way to this part of that town.

A reference in the Wayte grant to the Connecticut path may also have leant support to the supposition that it went to and over the Indian bridge, but the Connecticut



path, in the language of that grant, is located to its north or northwest, and is not intended as a monument bounding the west side of the grant, as one writer has supposed, and indicated on his map. Taking all this evidence together, it must be admitted that it is unsatisfactory and is insufficient to establish the detour of this path to the south into the present town of Sherborn, before it reached Ashland. In any attempt to locate the Connecticut path in the town of Ashland one fact must be taken to be established beyond dispute, and that is, that the path goes through the Russell grant. Indeed no writer disputes this. As before stated, the act of the General Court recites that the lands of this grant lie upon both sides of this old way. We have therefore only to locate the Russell grant, to determine, within certain limits, the location of the path.

There is no dispute as to the approximate location of the Russell grant. The original farms of the Havens, John and Nathaniel, covered the northerly part. The southerly part comprised the Great Meadow and adjoining swamps on the southwest. The westerly line of the grant was well known and is undisputed. The description in the act of the legislature shows this grant was bounded southerly on the uplands. Any one who is closely acquainted with the lands, can see that the language used in the act can have its proper application only by making the southerly boundary the line that divides the soft lands from the uplands.

This line together with the westerly boundary of this grant afterwards became known as the Sherborn line, a line which in these parts derives its location from the locating of this grant. About 1684 the lands belonging to the Russell grant, by the purchase of Governor Danforth, because part of Danforth's Farms, which was the early name of Framingham, and this line between the soft lands, and the uplands, straightened later to avoid the deep indentations, together with the westerly boundary, became the established line between the towns of Framingham and Sherborn.

The writer is aware of the fact that Mr. Temple, who has written a valuable history of Framingham, has prepared a map on which his location of the Russell grant appears to carry this tract southerly over into the old town of Sherborn, but there is no evidence what this writer has been able to find in support of this theory; and it would seem that Mr. Temple may have projected the southerly portion of this tract out upon the upland, supposing that this was necessary in order to furnish hard land upon which to bring the Connecticut path up from the south within the limits of this grant. The writer has examined the records of the earliest conveyances relating to these parts, and he finds that neither Russell, nor his grantee, nor any of their successors in title, ever made deeds of the

uplands to the south of Great Meadow, and its adjacent swamps. Inhabitants of the town of Sherborn claimed these lands by grant from the General Court, and under deeds from the Indians. In 1720 there was a division of these lands among the Sherborn proprietors, and a considerable portion of the uplands lying to the south of the Russell grant was assigned to Jonathan Whitney, and about that time, perhaps a little before, began to be occupied by this Whitney, or a son bearing the same name. In the deeds that have followed relating to these lands there has often been a reference to the Framingham line, but always making it the northern boundary, and in one instance at least this line has been called the Sherborn upland. Clearly the conclusion must be that the Russell grant extended toward the south only to the upland line. Beginning now at the extreme southwest point of this Russell grant, at the foot of the upland, it will be found that the soft lands of the Great Meadow, and the adjacent swamps, extend from this point completely round on the south and east to the shores of Washakum pond. This whole tract was and is throughout its extent impassable to horses and cattle, at all seasons of the year. A great portion of this meadow is of peat formation, and in all its parts is soft, so that cattle in passing sink in the mire.

It is certain that the Connecticut path could not have passed over these soft lands, and therefore that it could not have entered upon the Russell grant through Sherborn territory from the southeast, south, or southwest, and that is equivalent to saying that the path could not have come into Ashland from Sherborn by any line of passage through this grant.

This conclusion necessarily sets aside the theory that the path went south from Framingham into Sherborn.

The writer's attention was first called to questions connected with the Connecticut path, while studying about the early settlers in the easterly part of Ashland. The land titles to this section go back to the Russell grant and in applying the description contained in the grant, the question of the location of the path arose immediately. As stated in the grant, the lands lie on both sides of the path and extend to its north. To give this description application, the path should traverse some considerable portion of the land in an easterly and westerly course. As a matter of fact there is but one way in which the Connecticut path taking a general westerly course from South Framingham can enter upon and pass through the Russell grant, and this is from the north side upon that part lying west of Washakum pond. This is the conclusion to which the writer has come both from his general knowledge of the lands bounding the grant, and from his recent special examination of the lands lying to the east and south. In order to make certain beyond question, whether

there was a possible place where the path could come in from the east or south, that is, from Sherborn, the writer took with him Mr. Charles Twitchell, who was born and brought up in Sherborn, just beyond the border of the Great Meadow, and swamp lying to the southeast, and who is familiar with all of the lands in that neighborhood, and it was found, upon a careful examination, that there was no possible passage from that direction into the grant which could be so laid down as to avoid soft lands impassable to cattle. Assuming as a fact that the path coming from the east enters upon the Russell grant at a point west of Washakum pond, the only possible place of entry, the configuration of the land would indicate that this point must be located between the pond and the somewhat steep hill, which lies to the west, and which cuts off entry beyond. The gently sloping lands along the west shore of the pond have long been cultivated and any path across them would long ago have been obliterated. But to any one acquainted with the lay of the land at this place, if a trail were to cross here, the present public road which is nearly in the ancient location, would appear to be where the old trail would naturally pass, as being the shortest and best course. A road entering the Russell grant at this place, in taking a westerly course would cross the grant, and would leave a substantial part of the grant lying to the north, so that the original description would well apply wherein the lands are said to lie upon both sides of the path, and looking the grounds all over the conclusion must be reached by every one intimately acquainted with the lands of this grant, that there is no other place at which the path can enter from the east, and that no other course through the grant, so well as the one about to be mapped out, suits all conditions of the problem.

Two points in the Connecticut path not above four miles apart are plainly located in two other grants by the General Court, that is in the Wayte and Crowne grants made about the time of the Russell grant. These points are in South Framingham, and a locality a little southwest of the centre of Ashland. Our problem consists in locating the path between these points. Nearly half the way in a direct line between these lands are covered with woods, and these woodlands have never been disturbed by cultivation, but are in as nearly the condition of 250 years ago, as time and the wood choppers could be expected to leave them. While turning over the matter in mind the writer remembered that there was a shallow trench in the back part of his woods, extending for a number of rods in an easterly and westerly direction, which had remained about the same for the fifty years of his recollection, and that neither he, nor his father before him, could give any good reason why that gouge or groove in the ground was there. Believing that there was never any



sufficient reasons for carrying the Connecticut path round through Sherborn, it occurred to him that this might well be an old trail made by the passage of cattle and foot travelers, and might be a part of that path, and he determined to make an investigation. Mr. Channing F. Grout had formerly lived for many years on the farm next adjoining the farm of the writer, and knew as well as the writer the lay of the land. Mr. Grout at the invitation of the writer, went with him to the spot in the woods before referred to, and following the line of this trench, an old path was discovered leading to the west and to the east. This path though lost in spots could in the main be readily followed in the woods. Further explorations were made, sometimes by the writer alone and sometimes accompanied by Mr. Grout, the result being that the path was traced through the whole extent of the woodland and in the pastures adjoining. The westerly end of this portion of the path, as shown clearly in the pasture of Mrs. Forbush, leads directly to the old ford across Cold Spring Brook near Ashland Centre. The easterly end, as traced, passes through the pasture of the Ashland pauper farm, and is lost in the cultivated land late of Milton Harris.

The path is greatly worn at certain points between these extremities, the groove in the earth showing at spots a depth of over a foot and a width of nearly three feet. Generally there is a depression of only a few inches in depth, and from one to two feet in width. At points there are variations from the main path, but these detours if followed, shortly lead back to the main course, and were caused doubtless by the path becoming worn at spots and difficult of passage. In the woods near where the trail was first discovered there are branches, one running more to the southeast and leading down the hill into the writer's pasture, where it is lost. This path it is hoped may yet be further traced. Another branch goes to the southwest, and may either lead round a spot of lowland, wet at some seasons of the year, back into the main path, or may have proceeded to the southwest in the direction of Mendon, and have been later merged in the road to Mendon, which took the same direction. At some places quite a ridge of earth is thrown up alongside of the trail, which remains well defined to this time, and shows that the travel over this way must have been extensive. The different detours at places in the woods before referred (to) also confirm the conclusion that this was a much traveled way, in fact nothing short of a main road.

Before proceeding to lay down more in detail the course of this trail, it may be proper to state that the location of the old Indian ways can often be determined by tracing the line of the first English dwellings. The early settlers came into this region by the Indian roads, and built their houses upon or near these paths, which served



them for roads until others were beaten out. It is said that the first settlers in these parts came in on the line of this principal Indian trail, which afterwards became known as the Connecticut path.

Let us now trace this line of settlement.

The earliest settlers in South Framingham dwelling to the northeast and east of the present railroad centre, excepting Thomas Eames, had their houses on or near this path. Beginning at a point about east from the present passenger station, and bearing to the southwest and west, in their order were found the dwellings of two Eames, Bowen and Benjamin, and John Haven. Shortly after passing the last named dwelling a turn is made to the southwest. Half a mile away on the west shore of Washakum pond the dwelling of Nathaniel Haven was reached, and again going a mile west in the same general direction, an old cellar hole is found about a quarter of a mile east from the fording-place on Cold Spring brook, near the village of Ashland.

Now on the supposition that there was an Indian trail or early path along the course of these houses, it must be admitted that this line is practicable and is the most direct line, considering the lay of the land, that can be laid down between South Framingham and the ford near Ashland village. The question whether this is a part of the Connecticut path may be further answered after studying more minutely the course of this trail.

It is admitted that the path came near the house of John Death in South Framingham. Turning more to the west, the supposition is that the path crossed the brook which leads south from Farm Pond at the point where Pond Street now crosses. As has before been stated, the earth in this locality is firm, and there is nothing to hinder cattle and foot-travelers from fording at this point. Besides it is quite uncertain whether water in any quantities flowed through this brook in early times, as the principal outlet from Farm Pond was, as it is now, at the north end, into Sudbury River. Bearing now westerly and northwesterly after crossing the brook into Winthrop Street, there is evidence that this line before and after crossing, follows an ancient trail. This fact is distinctly stated in the laying out of this part of the early county road, to which these streets now correspond, from Hopkinton through Ashland, South Framingham, and on to the northeast in 1729 as shown by the records of county roads on file in the office of the County Commissioners of Middlesex County. This road coming down from Park's Corner, is described in these records as going "by John Whitney's, Deacon Haven's, the Eames', Ensign Death's and Lieut. Gleason's, as the way is drawn, and has been anciently used."

The houses of the Whitney's and others here men-

tioned were built not earlier than 1687 and if, in 1729 the road that passed there was ancient it must have been in existence before they were built, which was equivalent to stating that they were built upon an old Indian path.

From the record of this county road it appears that in the west part of Framingham, the laying out was upon fresh lands, and the road did not enter upon this ancient way until coming east it reached the neighborhood of Whitney's house. This is as it should be, if the theory is correct that at a point only a little northwest of this house the path bent again to the southwest in the direction of Nathaniel Haven's. The path could not on account of the swampy nature of the land have taken this bend until it reached what is now called the south road to Ashland, and is known as Union Street after it reaches the Ashland line. Assuming that the path followed substantially the same line as this road, when about half way to Nathaniel Haven's just at the north end of Washhakum pond, very early, probably about 1720, the dwelling house of Moses Haven, afterwards known as the Foster place, would have been passed. Nathaniel Haven's house, next west, was built not far from 1690 on the site now occupied by the dwelling of Mr. Learned and, as before stated, upon the west side of the pond.

Following the present road a few rods westerly, the dwelling house of James Haven, son of Nathaniel, was erected as early as 1730, a house which was abandoned as a dwelling not more than twenty years ago, and was burned later. Less than a quarter of a mile west on the same road was a house erected by Nathan Haven, probably about the year 1713, and which was taken down less than fifty years ago, and replaced by the present dwelling house of Frederick O. Grout. All the four last named houses were built upon a road, of which it is believed there is no record of any laying out. It was certainly a very old road and might well have been a part of the Connecticut path.

From this point, the dwelling of Frederick O. Grout, this old path has been definitely located by the writer by his recent discoveries. Just at the west of Mr. Grout's house, where now the Ashland road, built about 1846, begins, there was formerly an old cart way. This bore to the south of the present road, and the slight filling across the low land and small brook still shows where this old road passed.

Before the Ashland road was built this cart-way was used as a road to Unionville, then the name of Ashland Village, and for many years after the building of the public road to Ashland it was used as a cart-road leading to the woods. About fifty rods to the west, this cart path deflected somewhat to the right, while, bearing slightly to the left, may be seen the groove of the old Indian path

just at the north end of the knoll in the town farm, which was formerly covered with a growth of pitch pines.

This groove in the earth can be clearly traced from the north end of this knoll onward, westerly, through the pasture of the town farm, to the bars which stand at the east end of the cart road leading to the pasture in the woods. Sometimes on this route through the pastures, there will be found two or three, or perhaps more, distinct paths, nearly parallel to each other, but which, if pursued, will all be found to unite. What appears to be the main trail passes not more than twenty feet to the south of the new well, dug this year, 1896, in this pasture to furnish water at the town farm buildings, less than half a mile away. Going west from the bars at the entrance of the woods, when about twenty rods distant, the trail leaves the main cart-path (which bears somewhat to the right) and continues in a direct line through the woods to a gap in the wall which wall is the boundary between the west side of the writer's woodland and the pasture of the town before mentioned. This gap which is an old bar way is near the extreme southwest corner of this old pasture. Shortly before reaching this bar-way, as has been before stated, a trail joins the path coming up from a more south-westerly direction through the woods of the writer out of his wood road, and at about the same place of juncture a much traveled path parted from the main path and went in a direction more southerly. In crossing the wall at the gap, the main path crosses also the road, now hardly traceable, spoken of in deeds bearing the date of about 1785 as the "old Mendon road," as that road corresponded in location very nearly with the easterly wall of this pasture, and its continuation south. Proceeding now westerly from the gap in the wall before referred to, the path continues in a line, converging towards the southern wall of this pasture, among the trees, through earth that has remained well in place, so that a well-marked ridge is noticed, lying along the south side of the groove. As the path approaches the south wall at a distance of perhaps fifteen rods from the gap before mentioned, it is lost in the rather soft earth. At this point it crosses the wall and is again found upon the other side. It skirts along the edge of the hard land in the same westerly direction, until it becomes lost in what is now called the Cole road, which is a wood road leading from the house of George H. Cole on Cedar Street, through the woods to Homer Avenue near the residence of C. F. Grout. The path from this place where it enters this road corresponds with it until a point is reached about ten rods from Homer Avenue, where the cartroad turns to the north, but the path keeps in the same direction, never deflecting from a westerly course. Before crossing Homer Avenue just at the side of this street, the trail passes an old cellar hole, or rather two cellar holes,



now partially filled with rubbish, the more northerly of which faces the path. Crossing the street, its line keeps the same course down to the foot of the hill in the pasture of Mrs. Forbush. On the side hill is a growth of pines and small oaks, and although it is not easy to trace the line of the path on the ground, it can be very distinctly traced by the varied growth of the wood. At the foot of the steep part of the hill, where a trail comes in from the south, the path turns more to the north and leads through the pasture by a plainly marked depression, directly to the old ford across Cold Spring brook, by the great boulder, sometimes called Pout rock. In the alders near the brook there is a distinct ridge by the side of the furrow. After crossing the ford the path has not been traced, the lands on the north side of Cold Spring brook having been cultivated, but the path must have proceeded on the easterly side of a small brook which empties into Cold Spring brook, to a point near Union Street, where crossing this small brook it turned to the southwest, and doubtless followed mainly the line of Union Street to the dwellings of the Magunko Indians, which were built on or near the William Enslin place, and so on in the same direction to Hopkinton.

To return now to the original question, has the Connecticut path between South Framingham and Ashland Village been discovered? It is evident that the line of the oldest known way in these parts has now been laid down and when it is remembered that the earliest settlers came in on the Indian roads and settled near them it is highly probable that this is an old Indian trail. It would seem not only to be highly probable, but also absolutely certain that this trail is a part of the Connecticut path. There is indisputable evidence in the language contained in the Russell grant that this path went through it. The lands belonging to Russell are well known, and the only way to get through them in going between the two known points in this path, South Framingham and Ashland Centre, is to cross substantially where this way has been marked out. If any one is still sceptical about this location, he should go over the line from the old ford in Ashland about twenty-five rods below the Main Street bridge over Cold Spring brook, to the house of Frederick O. Grout. Nearly all the way the trail can be distinctly traced, as an old foot-way for travelers and for horses and cattle, much worn in places, and still well preserved after the lapse of many years. It will be found that this way hardly deviates from an air line course between the fording place in Ashland, and the south cemetery in Framingham, from which point by a curve of half a mile, it leads through the Sturtevant neighborhood to South Framingham village.

It is true that from Mr. Grout's residence to South Framingham there are no marks by which the trail can now be traced. But to those who are intimately acquainted with



the public road between these points, no argument will be required to convince them that this old road must follow substantially the old path, and was in part simply the old trail, used by the English settlers, first as the Indians had used it for foot travel for men and cattle, and afterwards also for wheel vehicles.

To recapitulate: The Connecticut Path from South Framingham went in a generally southwesterly course, entering Pond Street, at a point east of the outlet from Farm pond, thence through Pond Street and Winthrop Street to the south cemetery, at this point turning southwest it proceeded by Union Street to the house of F. O. Grout in Ashland. Here leaving the present road to Ashland it traversed lands late of Milton Harris, the Town Farm, G. T. Higley, and Franklin Enslin, to Homer Avenue. Crossing this street it passed over the pasture of Mrs. E. M. F. Forbush to the old ford at Cold Spring brook. Fording the brook it continued to near the junction of Main and Union Streets in Ashland village, and thence by Union Street past the spring at the Magunko Indian village at the Enslin place, known earlier as the Aaron Eames place, and on to Hopkinton, Grafton, and the west.

## APPENDIX B

### An Act to Incorporate the Town of Ashland.

Section 1. That all the territory now within the town of Hopkinton, Framingham and Holliston, in the county of Middlesex, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at the westerly corner of said territory, at a point in the line between Hopkinton, in the county of Middlesex, and Southborough, in the county of Worcester, at the centre of Concord River, due north of a monument, situated at the south side of said river; thence southerly passing a few rods west of the house of Peter Walker, to the southwest corner of the Wilson saw-mill meadow; thence southeasterly, to a point ten rods northeast of the northeast corner of the house of Nehemiah Pierce; thence southerly to a point on the north side of the road leading from the house of Amara Eames, by school-house in the district No. 3, in Hopkinton, said point being situated twenty rods westerly of the intersection of the north line of said road with the west line of the road leading by the house of Ezra Rockwood, to that part of Hopkinton now called Unionville, thence easterly to a point situated forty rods due south of the southeast corner of the house of Daniel Eames; thence northeasterly to the line of the town of Holliston; thence passing across the north part of Holliston to a monument at Dapping Brook, between the towns of Holliston and Sherburne; thence northerly on the line between the last named towns, to the town of Framingham; thence easterly on the line between Framingham and Sherburne to the "Ploughshare," so called; thence north four degrees east, two hundred and thirty-nine rods to a monument; thence northwesterly to the intersection of Rice Brook, with the road leading by the house of William Badgar in Framingham; thence more westerly to the line between the towns of Framingham and Southborough; thence southwesterly on the line between said towns, four hundred rods to a monument near the west side of the road leading by the house of Nathan Bridges; thence southerly between the last named towns to an iron bolt in the centre of Concord River, said bolt being the bound between the towns of Framingham, Hopkinton and Southborough; thence westerly by the centre of said river to the first mentioned bound, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Ashland; said town of Ashland is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and subject to all the duties and requisitions to which other towns are entitled and subject, by the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

Section 2. The inhabitants of said town of Ashland shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes, which have

been legally assessed upon them by the towns of Hopkinton, Framingham and Holliston, respectively, and all taxes heretofore assessed and not collected, shall be collected and paid to the treasurer of the towns of Hopkinton, Framingham and Holliston, respectively, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed, and also their proportion of all county and State taxes that may be assessed upon them, previously to the taking of the next State valuation; said proportion to be ascertained and determined by the last valuation in the said respective towns.

Section 3. The said town of Ashland shall, hereafter, be liable to pay one twelfth part of the expenses hereafter necessarily incurred in the support of all paupers, who, at the time of passing this act, are receiving support from the town of Framingham, and one-fifth part of the expenses so incurred by the town of Hopkinton, for the support of paupers at present receiving relief from Hopkinton, and one-eighth part of the expenses so incurred by the town of Holliston, in support of paupers, at present receiving relief from said Holliston.

Section 4. In case any disagreement shall arise between the said Ashland and said Framingham, Holliston, or Hopkinton, in respect to the expenses in support of paupers, under this act, the court of common pleas for the county of Middlesex, are hereby authorized to, and shall, on application of either town interested, appoint three disinterested persons to hear the parties and award thereon; which award, when accepted by said court, shall be final.

Section 5. The said town of Ashland, shall remain parts of the town of Framingham, Hopkinton and Holliston for the purpose of electing the representatives to the General Court, to which said towns are respectively entitled, and for the purpose of electing State officers, and Senators, Representative to Congress, and electors of President and Vice President of the United States, until the next decennial census of the inhabitants shall be taken, in pursuance of the thirteenth article of Amendment of the Constitution; and the meeting for the choice of such representatives, State officers and senators, shall be called by the selectmen of said respective towns; the selectmen of Ashland shall make a true list of persons belonging to the territory of each of said towns, hereby incorporated into the town of Ashland, qualified to vote at every such election, and the same shall be taken and used by the selectmen of said respective towns, for such elections, in the same manner as if prepared by themselves.

Section 6. The said towns of Framingham, Hopkinton, Holliston, and Ashland, shall be holden to pay the expenses of the construction of all roads within their respective limits, which have been located but not made.

Section 7. The farm now owned by the town of Hol-

liston, within the territory hereby erected into the town of Ashland, as a place for the employment and maintenance of the poor of the town of Holliston, shall not be liable to any taxation by the town of Ashland, so long as said farm is owned and used by the town of Holliston, as a place for such maintenance and employment.

Section 8. The town of Ashland shall be holden to refund, to the town of Hopkinton, one fifth part of the surplus revenue of the United States, heretofore received by said town of Hopkinton, in case that said town shall ever be required to refund the same.

Section 9. The town of Ashland shall pay to the town of Hopkinton, within four years from the passage of this act, the sum of six hundred dollars, with interest thereupon, in full compensation for their proportion of the town debt of Hopkinton.

Section 10. Any justice of the peace in the county of Middlesex is hereby authorized to issue his warrant to any principal inhabitant of the town of Ashland, requiring him to warn the inhabitants of said town, to meet at the time and place therein appointed, for the purpose of choosing all such town officers, as towns are by law authorized and required to choose, at their annual meetings.

Section 11. This act shall be in force from and after its passage.

*Passed March 16, 1846.*



## APPENDIX C

Information regarding the Ashland men who served during the Civil War is drawn from four sources, which are by no means in agreement. The first two of these are contemporary rolls of soldiers and officers in the military service, and seamen and officers in the naval service. These records were compiled for and kept by the town, and there are names in each of these town lists which do not appear on the other. The third source of information is the roster of members of Colonel Prescott Post No. 18, Grand Army of the Republic. This list was made later, and contains the names of veterans, not originating in Ashland, who subsequently joined the local Post; these late additional names, with one exception, as noted, are not included in the following list. The fourth source from which information has been taken is the two memorial tablets which are in the Ashland Public Library.

It is obvious that more than ten per cent of the town's entire population, which was probably at least one-quarter of the eligible males residing in Ashland at the time, served with the Union forces in the army or navy during the conflict.

The following list is presumed to be complete. Authority for the inclusion of each name is indicated:

- a—Names appearing in one or both of the town listings.
- b—Names appearing in the Roster of G. A. R. Post members, except as noted above.
- c—Names on the memorial tablets in the Public Library.

### CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS FROM ASHLAND

Nourse R. Adams (a, b)	Francis H. Chickering (a, b, c)
John H. Aldrich, Jr. (a, b, c)	Otis Chickering (a, b, c)
Willard Aldrich (a, b, c)	Thomas Clapp (c)
Albert C. Andrews (a, b, c)	Moses Clark (b, c)
Amos R. Babcock (a, b)	Augustus A. Colburn (a, b, c)
Samuel A. Baker (a, b, c)	Orton W. Cole (a, b, c)
John H. Balcom (a, b, c)	Russell W. Collier (a, c)
Abner E. Bell (a, b, c)	Albert B. Comey (a, b, c)
James Bell (a, b, c)	George A. Cook (a, b, c)
William Bell (a, b, c)	George F. Coxon (a, b, c)
William D. Bell (a, b, c)	John Cowhey (a, c)
Jacob Bohnart (b)	James H. Dadmun (a, b, c)
Harlan T. Boyd (a)	Edward Daniels (a, b, c)
Webster Brooks (a, b, c)	Stephen Augustus Davis (a, b, c)
Benjamin G. Brown (a, b, c)	Edward T. Dean (a, b, c)
George S. Chamberlain (a, b, c)	Charles Duley (a, b)
Abner P. Chase (a, b, c)	Eastman Duley (a, b, c)

George Frank Duley (a, b, c)  
 Alonzo G. Durand (a, b, c)  
 George A. Ellis (a, b, c)  
 Paesiello Emerson (a, b, c)  
 Edward Enslin (a, b, c)  
 Levi Fairbanks (a, b, c)  
 Thomas Feeney (c)  
 Thomas Felton (c)  
 John Ferguson (c)  
 Andrew Ferry (c)  
 Samuel R. Finley (c)  
 George S. Fisher (a, b, c)  
 William Fittz (a, b)  
 Daniel H. Fleming (c)  
 Edward J. Ford (a, b, c)  
 Edward A. Forbush (a, b, c)  
 Preston W. Forbush (a, b, c)  
 William Foremean (a, b, c)  
 Dennis Fountain (a)  
 Henry M. Frail (a, b, c)  
 William H. Frankland (a, b, c)  
 John Franklin (c)  
 William Freeman (c)  
 Lorenzo Frost (a, b, c)  
 John Gavin (a, c)  
 John W. Gowell (a, b, c)  
 Herman S. Greenwood (a, c)  
 Marcena M. Greenwood (a, c)  
 Edward Gross (b, c)  
 Frederick O. Grout (a, b, c)  
 F. R. Grout (a)  
 Albert Hadley (a)  
 George S. Hall (a)  
 Hans C. Hanson (c)  
 Henry G. Harriman (a, b, c)  
 Charles D. Hart (a, b, c)  
 Benjamin H. Hartshorne (a, b, c)  
 Joseph W. Hartshorne (a, b, c)  
 John Harvey (a)  
 Charles Hathaway (a)  
 Thomas Healy (a)  
 David Hennessy (a, b, c)  
 Michael Hennessy (a, b, c)  
 Morris Hennessy (a, c)  
 George T. Higley (b, c)  
 Wakefield L. Higley (b, c)  
 Matthias Hockman (b, c)  
 John W. Hodges (a)  
 Gilbert M. Holbrook (a, b, c)  
 George H. Houghton (a, b, c)  
 Ora P. Howland (c)  
 Henry Jackson (a)<sup>1</sup>

Adolph Jarvis (a)  
 Charles H. Jewell (c)  
 Eliphalet J. Jones (a, b, c)  
 James H. Jones 2d (b, c)  
 William Johns (b, c)  
 Martin Kennedy (a, b)  
 Charles E. Kimball (a, b, c)  
 Lewis H. Kingsbury (a, b, c)  
 Charles R. T. Knowlton (a, b, c)  
 Sanford P. Lane (a, b, c)  
 Chester E. Lesure (a, b)  
 James Madden (a, c)  
 John Maley (a, b)  
 William Maley (a)  
 William Mansfield (a)  
 Edward C. Marsh (a, b, c)  
 George V. Marsh (a, b, c)  
 William H. Maynard (a, b, c)  
 Denis McCarty (a)  
 John H. McGarrity (a, c)  
 James McGuire (a, b, c)  
 Edward McKnight (a, b, c)  
 William McNamara (a, c)  
 Hiram Mellen (a, b, c)  
 Charles O. Metcalf (a, b, c)  
 Benjamin F. Montague (a, b, c)  
 Charles H. Moore (a, b)  
 Ezra Morse (a, b, c)  
 George W. Morse (a, b, c)  
 Elbridge Moulton (a, b, c)  
 William H. Nason (a, c)  
 Robert J. Neal (a, b, c)  
 Frederick A. Nottage (a, c)  
 John S. Nottage (a, c)  
 William A. F. Noyse (a, b, c)  
 Dennis O'Brien (b, c)  
 John O'Brien (c)  
 Michael O'Brien (a, c)  
 John O'Callahan (a)  
 Patrick O'Connor (c)  
 Francis O'Donnell (c)  
 James O'Harer (c)  
 Robert O'Neil (a)  
 Joseph P. Ockington (a, b, c)  
 Henry Oliver (c)  
 William Orcut (a, c)  
 Arthur L. Parker (a, b, c)  
 John A. Parker (a, b, c)  
 Martin F. Parmenter (a)  
 Augustus Perkins (a, b, c)  
 Henry Perkins (a, b, c)  
 Andrew J. Perry (a, b, c)

Edwin L. Perry (α, b, c)  
 Lionel D. Philipps (α, c)  
 Charles C. Pollard (α, b, c)  
 Thomas C. Pond (α, b, c)  
 John S. Powers (α, b, c)  
 William H. Pratt (α, b, c)  
 Levi Ramsden (α, b, c)  
 Elliot S. Reed (α, b, c)  
 George P. Reed (α, c)  
 Albert Reiss (α)  
 Albee Ricer (α)  
 David Robinson (α)  
 Thomas Rowley (α)  
 William Ryan (c)  
 George Scott (α, b, c)  
 Silas S. Seaver (α, b, c)  
 John Shaughnessy (α, b, c)  
 Eugene Shepard (α, c)  
 William Sloan (α)  
 Adoniram J. Smith (c)  
 Charles E. Smith (b, c)  
 Granville Smith (α, b)  
 Henry R. Smith (α, b, c)  
 Norman Smith (c)  
 Charles Spooner (α, b, c)  
 Prince P. Spooner (α, b, c)  
 Stephen Spooner (α, b)  
 Arthur W. Stiles (α, b, c)

Charles L. Stoddars (α, b, c)  
 James Sullivan (α)  
 John Sullivan (α)  
 Thomas O. Sullivan (α)  
 Timothy Sullivan (α)  
 Avery Sylvester (α, c)  
 Zebulon Thompson (c)  
 William Travis (c)  
 George B. Twitchell (α, b, c)  
 George H. Vose (α, b, c)  
 Wright Walker (α, c)  
 James E. Walkup (α, b, c)  
 Frank A. Wall (α, c)  
 George H. Warren (c)  
 Willard W. Watkins (α, b, c)  
 Henry Wellington (α)  
 John Wells (α, c)  
 Samuel G. Wench (α, b, c)  
 Dana M. Wenzell (α, b)  
 Oscar W. West (α, b, c)  
 John B. Whalen (α, b)  
 William H. Wheeler (α, b, c)  
 Albert A. Whittemore (α, b, c)  
 Edward F. Whittemore (α, b, c)  
 Elbridge G. Whittemore (α, b, c)  
 John Wilson (α)  
 Jacob O. Winchester (α, b, c)

The following names of Ashland men who served in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection appear on the memorial tablets in the library building:

George F. Conant  
 Caleb H. Lincoln  
 J. Charles Lyden

Henry Ralston  
 Thomas J. Stone  
 Thomas H. Welch

The following Ashland men served in the World War:

Phillip M. Bellows\*  
 James O. Carey\*  
 LeRoy H. Davis\*  
 Gordon A. Green\*  
 Richard T. Murphy\*  
 Lewis F. Thompson\*  
 Francis J. Wilson\*  
 Edward L. Adams  
 Ernest C. Adams  
 Alessandro Alberini  
 Ermino Alberini  
 Norman M. Andrews

William H. Army  
 Francis J. Arnold  
 John M. Arnold  
 Chester F. Barrows  
 Fred S. Bemis  
 Arthur G. Bennett  
 Walter R. Bixby  
 Joseph H. Booth  
 Willis C. Brown  
 Donald S. Clark  
 Edward C. Clark  
 Eugene K. Clark

\*Died in service.

Frederick V. Clifford  
 Harold S. Cole  
 John F. Costello  
 Edward E. Curnyn  
 George A. Davis  
 Carl N. Davidson  
 Donald Dickinson  
 John F. Dickinson  
 Peter Dionne  
 Chauncy O. Dustin  
 Charles B. Eastman  
 George M. Fellows  
 Luigi Filponne  
 Lewis P. Fulton  
 Frank T. Gimski  
 Naif Hamdy  
 Charles E. Hebden  
 Robert L. Hebden  
 Carlton C. Hicks  
 Kenneth V. Hicks  
 Frederick D. Hill  
 Russell C. Hill  
 John J. Hunt  
 Arthur V. Irwin  
 Elmer F. Jones  
 Dewey Kadra  
 William Kadra  
 Edward J. Keady, Jr.  
 Joseph A. Kelly  
 Richard E. Kimball  
 William A. Kimball  
 Francis R. King  
 Thomas J. King  
 George H. Kirby  
 Paul W. Lincoln  
 Frank W. Lowell  
 John J. Manion  
 Arthur T. McDonald  
 Charles J. Montani  
 Clarence G. Morey  
 Benjamin W. Morse  
 John R. Mort  
 Robert J. Mortimer  
 Guiseppe A. Mosciarilli

Umberto Mochini  
 Charles H. Nichols  
 Arvid P. Nord  
 Leslie H. Norse  
 Stuart N. Nye  
 Charles E. Parsons  
 Alfred L. Perini  
 Edgar N. Pike  
 Alfred W. Pingree  
 David E. Plummer  
 Earl E. Pratt  
 George A. Putnam  
 John D. Quigley  
 Warren E. Rice  
 Sherwood S. Rose  
 Edward Ryan  
 Joseph P. Ryan  
 Anthony L. Scagnelli  
 John Scagnelli  
 Frederick L. Schneider  
 Fred L. Schube  
 Lewis M. Schube  
 Arthur P. Scott  
 Charles S. Shaughnessy  
 Edward J. Shaughnessy  
 Earl Gray Stiles  
 Bayard S. Stone  
 Frank W. Stone  
 Herbert P. Stone  
 Joseph B. Stone  
 Otis B. Stone  
 George R. Taylor  
 James F. Taylor  
 Lawrence E. Taylor  
 Henry I. Twiss, M.D.  
 Lewis R. Twitchell  
 Henry L. Walkup  
 James E. Walkup  
 Charles A. Whitten  
 Henry J. Wilson  
 Earl M. Winn  
 William E. Winner  
 Wilbur E. Young  
 Axel E. Zetterman

In addition to these men of Ashland there appear on the World War Memorial the names of the following nurses:

Carrie T. Burhoe  
 Annie Whittle



## APPENDIX D

### TOWN CLERKS

- 1846-1849. Charles F. W. Parkhurst.  
1850-1853. William F. Ellis.  
1854-1856. Luther E. Leland.  
1857-1862. Arthur A Cloyes.  
1863. J. Edward Tilton.  
1864. George S. Goddard.  
1865-1867. George F. Seaver.  
1868-1879. William A. Tilton.  
1880-1889. Edward T. Billings.  
1890. Edward T. Billings, Albert H. Ray.  
1891-1893. Albert H. Ray.  
1894-1895. John Wenzel.  
1896-1905. William F. Merritt.  
1906- Walter G. Whittemore.

## APPENDIX E

### SELECTMEN

1846. Calvin Shepard, Jr., Josiah Burnham, Dexter Rockwood, Andrew Allard, Albert Ellis.
1847. William Jennison, Penuel Clark, Dexter Rockwood, Elias Grout, William Eames.
1848. William F. Ellis, Josiah Cloyes, John Works.
1849. Elias Grout, Willard R. Eames, William Eames.
1850. Elias Grout, Willard R. Eames, William Eames.
1851. Elias Grout, Willard R. Eames, William Eames.
1852. Simeon N. Cutler, Willard R. Eames, William Eames.
1853. Simeon N. Cutler, Willard R. Eames, William Eames.
1854. Elias Grout, James Jackson, William C. Jennison.
1855. James E. Forbush, William Eames, Charles Twitchell.
1856. James E. Forbush, Benjamin Homer, Henry Cutler.
1857. William Eames, Benjamin Homer, Henry Cutler.
1858. Elias Grout, Henry Cutler, John Clark.
1859. Elias Grout, William Eames, Benjamin Homer.
1860. Elias Grout, William A. Scott, J. Newton Pike.
1861. Elias Grout, William A. Scott, J. Newton Pike.
1862. J. Newton Pike, Henry Cutler, Charles Alden.
1863. J. Newton Pike, Charles Alden, John Clark.
1864. J. Newton Pike, Charles Alden, John Clark.
1865. J. Newton Pike, Charles Alden, Alvah Metcalf.
1866. J. Newton Pike, Alvah Metcalf, Benjamin Homer.
1867. J. Newton Pike, Alvah Metcalf, Charles H. Tilton.
1868. William F. Ellis, Willard R. Eames, Benjamin G. Thompson.
1869. William F. Ellis, Elias Grout, W. A. F. Noyes.
1870. John Clark, Benjamin G. Thompson, J. H. Dadmun.
1871. John Clark, Henry Cutler, J. H. Dadmun.
1872. John Clark, Alvah Metcalf, S. A. Cole.
1873. Charles Alden, S. A. Cole, R. N. Ross.
1874. Charles Alden, Homer Greenwood, John A. Whitney.
1875. Charles Alden, Abner Greenwood, John A. Whitney.
1876. Charles Alden, Abner Greenwood, John A. Whitney.
1877. Abner Greenwood, R. N. Ross, S. S. Baker.
1878. Abner Greenwood, R. N. Ross, Samuel S. Baker.
1879. Abner Greenwood, Samuel S. Baker, J. A. Balcom.
1880. Abner Greenwood, Samuel S. Baker, J. A. Balcom.
1881. R. N. Ross, C. H. Tilton, Alvah Metcalf.

1882. R. N. Ross, C. H. Tilton, Alvah Metcalf.  
1883. Charles H. Tilton, R. N. Ross, Channing F. Grout.  
1884. J. A. Balcom, Benjamin H. Hartshorne, Adrian Foote.  
1885. Adrian Foote, J. A. Balcom, B. H. Hartshorne.  
1886. Albert W. Eames, 2nd, Josiah A. Balcom, Granville C. Fiske.  
1887. Albert W. Eames, 2nd, W. F. Ellis, Granville C. Fiske.  
1888. Charles H. Tilton, Adrian Foote, J. A. Balcom.  
1889. Adrian Foote, J. A. Balcom, W. W. Smith.  
1890. Adrian Foote, J. A. Balcom, C. E. Loring.  
1891. Adrian Foote, Charles E. Loring, John E. Woods.  
1892. Adrian Foote, John E. Woods, Anthony Travers.  
1893. Adrian Foote, John E. Woods, Granville C. Fiske.  
1894. Granville C. Fiske, Channing F. Grout, John E. Woods.  
1895. Granville C. Fiske, William H. Twiss, John E. Woods.  
1896. John E. Woods, Granville C. Fiske, William H. Twiss.  
1897. William H. Twiss, John E. Woods, Granville C. Fiske.  
1898. John E. Woods, William H. Twiss, Granville C. Fiske.  
1899. John E. Woods, John H. Balcom, Albert W. Eames, 2nd.  
1900. John E. Woods, John H. Balcom, Albert W. Eames, 2nd.  
1901. John A. Holbrook, John E. Woods, John H. Balcom.  
1902. John A. Holbrook, John H. Balcom, John E. Woods.  
1903. John A. Holbrook, John E. Woods, Albert C. Whittemore.  
1904. Albert C. Whittemore, Frank A. Morse, John A. Holbrook.  
1905. Solomon M. Cutter, Frank A. Morse, Albert C. Whittemore.  
1906. Frank A. Morse, John A. Holbrook, John E. Woods.  
1907. Henry E. Warren, Eugene L. Clark, Frank A. Morse.  
1908. Wesley B. Jones, Henry E. Warren, Eugene L. Clark.  
1909. Wesley B. Jones, Albert C. Whittemore, Charles T. Dearborn.  
1910. Charles T. Dearborn, Ralph D. Harriman, Henry C. Burnham.  
1911. Charles T. Dearborn, Henry C. Burnham, John T. King.  
1912. Henry C. Burnham, Clarence E. Greenwood, Charles T. Dearborn.  
1913. Clarence E. Greenwood, Fred W. Ray, Chester W. McCaul.  
1914. Charles T. Dearborn, Francis J. Wilson (2), Chester W. McCaul (1).  
1915. Charles T. Dearborn, Francis J. Wilson, Horace H. Piper.  
1916. Francis J. Wilson, Horace H. Piper, Ralph W. Bell.  
1917. Horace H. Piper, Ralph W. Bell, Abraham H. Lincoln.  
1918. Ralph W. Bell, Abraham H. Lincoln, Leon W. Davis.  
1919. Fred W. Ray, Abraham H. Lincoln, Luther C. Leavitt.  
1920. Charles T. Dearborn, Allan S. Farwell, George V. Sullivan.  
1921. Charles T. Dearborn, Allan S. Farwell, George V. Sullivan.  
1922. Allan S. Farwell, Harry N. Collamore, George V. Sullivan.  
1923. Allan S. Farwell, George V. Sullivan, Harry N. Collamore.  
1924. Allan S. Farwell, Harry N. Collamore, George V. Sullivan.

- 1925. Harry N. Collamore, Axel E. Zetterman, Leon W. Davis.
- 1926. Leon W. Davis, Axel E. Zetterman, George V. Sullivan.
- 1927. George V. Sullivan, Everett Morey, Walter C. Rose.
- 1928. George V. Sullivan, Everett Morey, George E. Gipps.
- 1929. George V. Sullivan, George E. Gipps, Everett Morey.
- 1930. Eliot G. Clark, George V. Sullivan, Everett Morey.
- 1931. Everett Morey, Eliot G. Clark, Henry J. McDonald.
- 1932. Thomas S. Cowern, George V. Sullivan, Henry J. McDonald.
- 1933. Thomas S. Cowern, Henry L. Walkup, Everett Morey.
- 1934. Henry L. Walkup, Thomas S. Cowern, Henry J. McDonald.
- 1935. Henry J. McDonald, J. Francis McGill, Henry L. Walkup.
- 1936. Eliot G. Clark, Henry L. Walkup, Charles W. Olsen.
- 1937. George G. Rogers, George V. Sullivan, Harold G. Cowan.
- 1938. George L. Stone, George V. Sullivan, Alice G. Brown.
- 1939. Martin C. Mulhall, Alice G. Brown, George G. Rogers.
- 1940. Martin C. Mulhall, George G. Rogers, Raymond A. Heaton.



## ASHLAND FACTS AND FIGURES, 1941

Total area.....	7832 acres
of which ponds and rivers comprise 320 acres.	
Number of miles of town highway, approximately.....	40
Population in 1940 (Ashland census).....	2608
(Federal census).....	2479
Number of families, approximately.....	750
Number of people associated with the Catholic Church, approximately .....	625
Number of people associated with the Federated Church, approximately .....	515
Protestant denominations represented in Federated Church	8
Jewish families, approximately.....	5
Number of houses.....	688
Number of automobiles privately owned.....	972
Number of manufacturing establishments.....	11
Total number of people employed in these establishments... of which 1625 are in the three largest factories.	1777
Number of horses.....	57
Number of cows .....	174
Number of miles of water pipe.....	19
Average amount of water used per day.....	500,000 gals.
Three pumping stations, two standpipes, with a total capac- ity of .....	1,300,000 gals.
Public transportation by one steam railroad and one bus line.	



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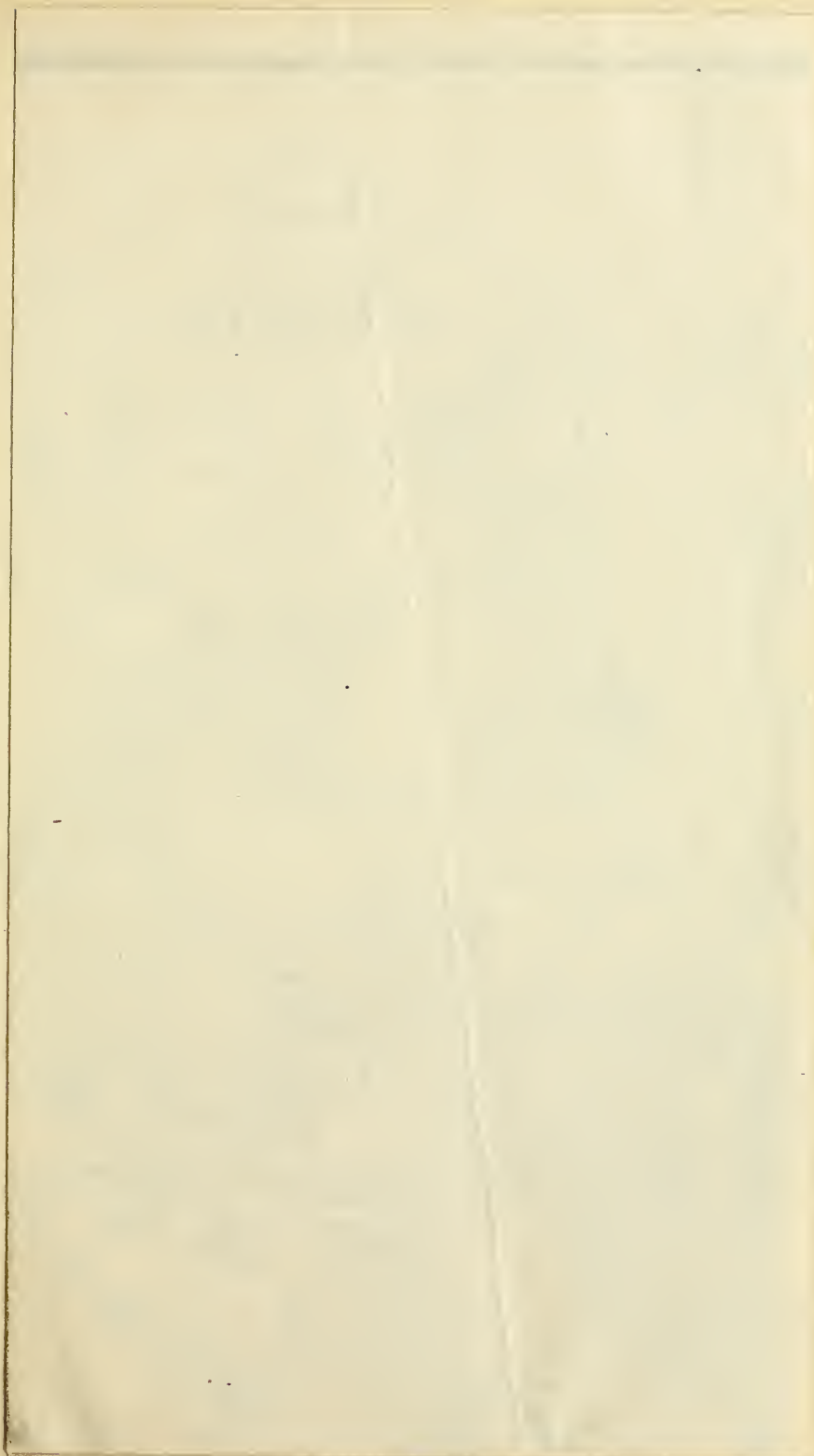
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MAP  
OF  
the TOWN of  
**ASHLAND**

MASS.

Published by authority of the Town

1854.

Designed by George B. Fowler

75 Miles per an Inch.  
1 1/2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles



